



Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy

Chilliwack River Watershed Forum & Survey: A Summary

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Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition
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Executive Summary

The Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy was initiated in 2004 with the goal of improving decision making in the Chilliwack River Watershed by building a common understanding of watershed issues, values and solutions based on sound science and local knowledge. As outlined in the terms of reference for the strategy, one phase of the process involves identifying and clarifying watershed issues and providing several strategies to address the issues based on public input and working group advice. This document summarizes input received regarding watershed issues from public engagement activities undertaken in fall 2005, including a written questionnaire and a forum on December 1, 2005.

Individuals who attended the watershed forum or responded to the questionnaire were asked the following questions:

- Question #1: What do you like best about the Chilliwack River Valley?
- Question #2: What do you want the Valley to be like in 20-50 years? (*questionnaire only*)
- Question #3: What 3 things are you concerned about with respect to maintaining the natural, social, and economic values associated with the Chilliwack River Watershed? What ideas do you have about how to tackle these concerns?
- Question #4: What would you be willing to do to improve the sustainability of the Chilliwack River Watershed? (*questionnaire only*)

Responses to the first question indicate that the watershed is valued for its environmental quality, aesthetic quality, physical landscape, recreational opportunities, rural lifestyle, and community. Within the environmental quality category, people valued clean air and water, fish, wildlife, natural flora, and intact wilderness. Values in the aesthetic quality category related to the scenic beauty of the landscape. The mountains, forest, river, and lakes were aspects of the physical landscape specifically noted. In terms of recreation, individuals valued having good access to relatively pristine areas for hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, whitewaters sports, off road motor sports, and shooting. Low density development, low levels of noise and light, and the sounds and proximity of nature were all highly valued aspects of the watershed's rural lifestyle. In addition, people valued the strong sense of community, the accessibility, and the diversity of activities that occur in the watershed.

Responses to the question "What do you want the valley to be like in 20-50 years" suggest the following community vision:

The community would like the Chilliwack River Valley to be much as it is today, except with improved recreation and garbage management, limited and controlled development (e.g. small scale, low impact), and more sustainable resource extraction activities (e.g. fishing, forestry). They envision a valley that (a) is as close to natural as possible with sustainable populations of native wildlife, intact ecosystems, and clean air and water, (b) is respected by users, and (c) will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

The watershed concerns identified by the community can be broadly grouped into the following categories: recreational activities, illegal activities, development practices, resource extraction activities, natural processes & hazards, and governance/resource challenges (see Appendix E for a summary of issues and options). Based on the feedback received from the community, it seems that issues related to recreation and illegal activities are of greatest concern at this point in time.

The primary concern with recreational use and illegal activities is that these activities negatively affect the natural environment (e.g. wildlife, fish, ecosystems, water quality) and threaten public safety and enjoyment of the valley. Many of the solutions proposed for the problems associated with recreational and illegal activities relate to increased enforcement and restrictions. Improved planning, public awareness/education campaigns, increased involvement of locals in monitoring and enforcement, and provision of appropriate facilities were also cited as potential options for addressing these concerns.

The public is also concerned about recreational use of fish and wildlife resources in the valley. To address concerns with bear hunting, residents suggested establishing a no hunting corridor along the river near Post Creek and not issuing bear hunting licenses close to Post Creek. More monitoring and effective enforcement were cited as potential solutions to the perceived abuse of fisheries resources.

Concern over future development relates to its potential negative impacts on visual and environmental quality. The public wants new development to be kept to a minimum, especially commercial development, and to be situated in/around areas already developed. The community is also concerned about the potential impacts of resort development and independent power projects and would like to know more about the potential risks associated with these types of development in the river valley.

The key resource activity causing concerns in the Chilliwack River valley is forestry, although several individuals also expressed concerns about the potential impacts of mining. Proposed solutions to the visual and environmental concerns associated with forestry included reduced logging in certain areas (e.g. old growth, near Chilliwack Lake), smaller cut blocks, improved buffers and corridors, and increased monitoring.

Concerns about natural processes and hazards centered around the impact of hazards (e.g. flooding, erosion, slides, fire) on private property and wildlife/fish, as well as the impact of hazard mitigation works on the environment. As a solution, the public suggested that agencies should take a more preventative approach to managing hazards, rather than a reactive approach. For flooding, this would entail developing an environmentally sensitive plan for the whole system that might include dyking, rip rap, gryones, and gravel/debris extraction in certain areas. The establishment of a warning system for natural disaster in the valley, and better monitoring and maintenance of existing hazard mitigation works were also suggested.

Governance concerns included a lack of cooperation and communication between jurisdictions, a lack of legislation or resources to deal with issues, and appropriate acknowledgement/participation of First Nations. In general, the public wishes any initiatives to address these concerns to be proactive, promote equality, stimulate effective cooperation, and retain sufficient power to direct certain actions.

Most individuals who attended the watershed forum or responded to the survey are willing to do their part to improve the sustainability of the watershed. Actions include being involved in the watershed strategy; volunteering time to maintain trails, clean up the valley, or increase habitat; promoting the stewardship ethic; fostering awareness about what can and is being done; and exercising the right to vote.

1 Introduction

The Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy was initiated in 2004 with the goal of improving decision making in the Chilliwack River Watershed by building a common understanding of watershed issues, values and solutions based on sound science and local knowledge. Originated by a partnership between the Fraser Valley Regional District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition, this multi-jurisdictional project now involves several provincial and local governments, Soowahlie First Nation, Sto:lo Nation, the Fraser Basin Council, and the community.

As outlined in the terms of reference for the strategy, one phase of the process involves identifying and clarifying watershed issues and providing several strategies to address the issues based on public input and working group advice. Where agreement on the preferred course of action to address an issue can be reached, a recommendation will be given. Where agreement is not possible, analysis of the issue will be provided to facilitate future discussion about the issue.

This document summarizes public input regarding watershed issues obtained from outreach activities undertaken in November and December 2005. This summary will provide a basis for further discussion of issues and alternatives by working groups and the project team for the strategy.

2 Review of Methods

The input summarized in this document was obtained from a written questionnaire and discussion that occurred at a public watershed forum held the evening of December 1, 2005 at the Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Association Clubhouse in the Chilliwack River Valley. An invitation to participate in the forum was sent to all residents of the Chilliwack River Valley and local First Nations, as well as to representatives of businesses, recreational associations, stewardship groups, and other stakeholders (see Appendix A). Approximately 45 individuals attended the forum. Brad Whittaker, the Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition, facilitated the event on behalf of the Coalition. At the forum, attendees learned about the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy and identified characteristics that they like about the Chilliwack River Valley as well as watershed concerns.

A questionnaire was distributed via mail to all residents of the Chilliwack River Valley as well as to representatives of businesses, recreational associations, stewardship groups, and other stakeholders in the Chilliwack River Watershed in November 2005 (see Appendix B). A web-based version of the survey was available on the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy website throughout November and December. Individuals who attended the watershed forum were also given a copy of the questionnaire.

Watershed forum attendees and questionnaire respondents were asked the following questions:

- Question #1: What do you like best about the Chilliwack River Valley?
- Question #2: What do you want the Valley to be like in 20-50 years? (*questionnaire only*)
- Question #3: What 3 things are you concerned about with respect to maintaining the natural, social, and economic values associated with the Chilliwack River Watershed? What ideas do you have about how to tackle these concerns?
- Question #4: What would you be willing to do to improve the sustainability of the Watershed? (*questionnaire only*)

Responses to these questions are summarized in Section 4 and Appendices C, D and E.

3 Questionnaire Response Type & Respondent Characteristics

Forty-six complete responses to the questionnaire were received. Most of the responses were from individuals who attended the watershed forum (48%), followed by individuals who completed the mail survey (28%) and the web survey (18%) (Figure 1). Note that three emails and letters were also received; the input from these is included in this summary. The majority of respondents to the survey indicated that they lived in the Chilliwack River Valley, and a significant number also worked in the valley (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Source of completed survey responses and comments (n=49)

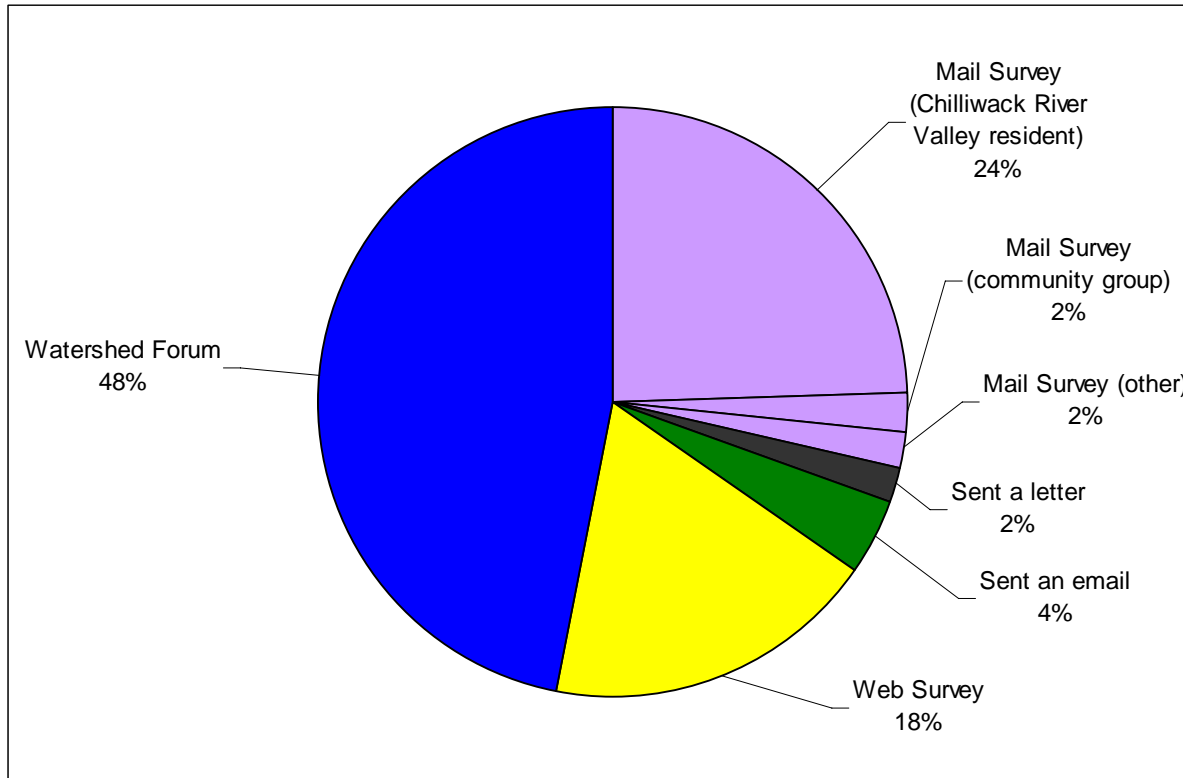
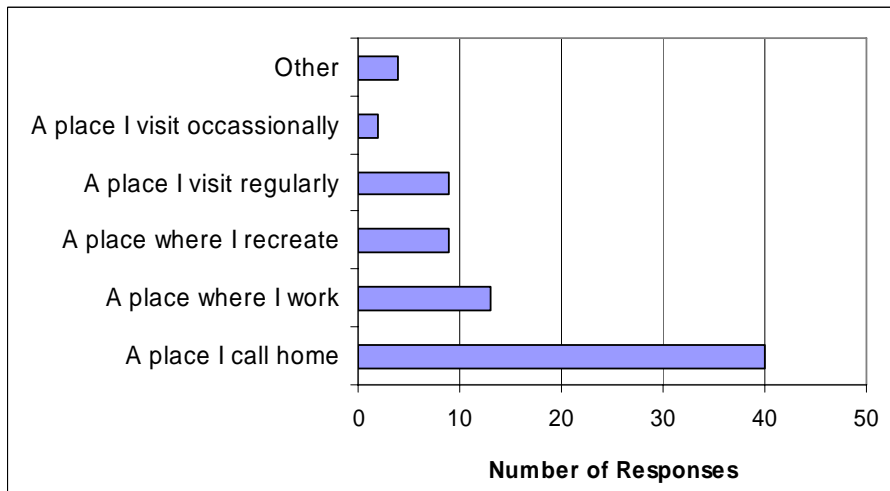


Figure 2 Relationship of respondents to the Chilliwack River Valley (n=47)



4 Summary of Public Input

This section summarizes the responses to the questions posed at the Watershed Forum and on the written/web questionnaire. Note that this is not intended to be a quantitative analysis, but rather a qualitative review of community interests and concerns. However, the level of community concern or the degree of support for actions to address the issues was estimated simply by noting the number of questionnaire respondents who mentioned a particular interest, concern or potential solution.

4.1 Valued Characteristics of the Chilliwack River Valley

The first question posed at the Watershed Forum and on the survey asked individuals ‘what they liked best about the Chilliwack River Watershed.’ The characteristics that were noted can be broadly grouped into the following categories: environmental quality, aesthetic quality, physical landscape, recreational opportunities, rural lifestyle, and community (see Appendix C). Within the environmental quality category, people valued clean air and water, fish, wildlife, natural flora, and intact wilderness. Values in the aesthetic quality category related to the scenic beauty of the landscape. The mountains, forest, river, and lakes were aspects of the physical landscape specifically noted. In terms of recreation, individuals valued having good access to relatively pristine areas for hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, whitewaters sports, off road motor sports, and shooting. Low density development, low levels of noise and light, and the sounds and proximity of nature were all highly valued aspects of the watershed’s rural lifestyle. In addition, people valued the strong sense of community, the accessibility, and the diversity of activities that occur in the watershed.

4.2 Community Vision for the Future of the Chilliwack River Valley

Individuals who completed the questionnaire were asked ‘what do you want the valley to be like in 20-50 years.’ Responses to this question (see Appendix D) suggest the following community vision:

The community would like the Chilliwack River Valley to be much as it is today, except with improved recreation and garbage management, limited and controlled development (e.g. small scale, low impact), and more sustainable resource extraction activities (e.g. fishing, forestry). They envision a valley that (a) is as close to natural as possible with sustainable populations of native wildlife, intact ecosystems, and clean air and water, (b) is respected by users, and (c) will continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

4.3 Watershed Issues and Options

The bulk of the questionnaire and watershed forum focused on identifying watershed issues and potential options for addressing these issues (questionnaire only). The issues identified by the community can be broadly grouped into the following categories: recreational activities, illegal activities, development practices, resource extraction activities, natural processes & hazards, and governance/resource challenges (see Appendix E for a summary of issues and options).

Based on the feedback received from the community, it seems that issues related to recreation and illegal activities are of greatest concern at this point in time. This may reflect increasing recreational demands and illegal activities in the valley or increasing prevalence of these activities, a relatively low prevalence of resource extraction activities in the valley recently, and/or low development pressures over the past decade.

The primary concern with recreational use and illegal activities is that these activities negatively affect the natural environment (e.g. wildlife, fish, ecosystems, water quality) and threaten public safety and enjoyment of the valley. Many of the solutions proposed for the problems associated with recreational and illegal activities relate to increased enforcement and restrictions. Improved planning, public awareness/education campaigns, increased involvement of locals in monitoring and enforcement, and provision of appropriate facilities were also cited as potential options for addressing these concerns.

The public is also concerned about recreational use of fish and wildlife resources in the valley. To address concerns with bear hunting, residents suggested establishing a no hunting corridor along the river near Post Creek and not issuing bear hunting licenses close to Post Creek. More monitoring and effective enforcement were cited as potential solutions to the perceived abuse of fisheries resources.

Concern over future development relates to its potential negative impacts on visual and environmental quality. The public wants new development to be kept to a minimum, especially commercial development, and to be situated in/around areas already developed. The community is also concerned about the potential impacts of resort development and independent power projects and would like to know more about the potential risks associated with these types of development in the river valley.

The key resource activity causing concerns in the Chilliwack River valley is forestry, although several individuals also expressed concerns about the potential impacts of mining. Proposed solutions to the visual and environmental concerns associated with forestry included reduced logging in certain areas (e.g. old growth, near Chilliwack Lake), smaller cut blocks, improved buffers and corridors, and increased monitoring.

Concerns about natural processes and hazards centered around the impact of hazards (e.g. flooding, erosion, slides, fire) on private property and wildlife/fish, as well as the impact of hazard mitigation works on the environment. As a solution, the public suggested that agencies should take a more preventative approach to managing hazards, rather than a reactive approach. For flooding, this would entail developing an environmentally sensitive plan for the whole system that might include dyking, rip rap, gryones, and gravel/debris extraction in certain areas. The establishment of a warning system for natural disaster in the valley, and better monitoring and maintenance of existing hazard mitigation works were also suggested.

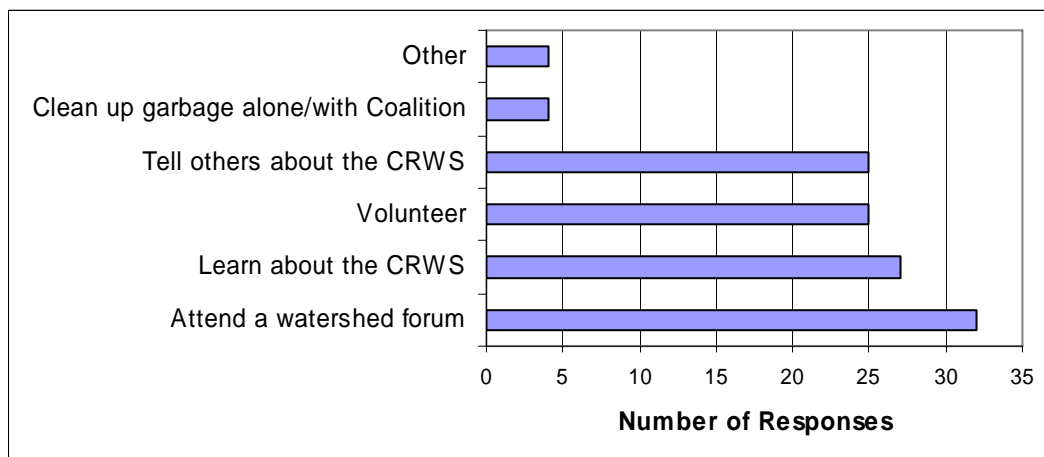
Governance concerns included a lack of cooperation and communication between jurisdictions, a lack of legislation or resources to deal with issues, and appropriate acknowledgement/participation of First Nations. In general, the public wishes any initiatives to address these concerns to be proactive, promote equality, stimulate effective cooperation, and retain sufficient power to direct certain actions.

4.4 Community Participation in Promoting Watershed Sustainability

The final question on the questionnaire asked individuals what they would be willing to do to improve the sustainability of the Chilliwack River Watershed and listed four potential activities. Most individuals indicated they would be willing to attend a watershed forum (Figure 3). A significant number also indicated they would be willing to learn about the strategy, tell others about the strategy, or volunteer their time. Four individuals specifically noted that they already participate in cleaning up garbage in the valley, either on their own or during organized clean up events. Other activities currently being undertaken by members of the community included promoting the stewardship ethic,

using a vote at election time, maintaining trails (e.g. the Trans Canada Trail), and continuing in a current working capacity and monitoring progress.

Figure 3 Activities that community members are willing to undertake to improve the sustainability of the watershed (n=45)



5 Limitations and Conclusions

The feedback received during the public engagement activities described in this document provides a good basis for further discussion about values, issues and solutions to problems in the Chilliwack River Watershed. However, several limitations are worth noting. First, the feedback came largely from residents of the Chilliwack River Valley as opposed to visitors. Therefore, we may not have obtained the full range of perspectives held by visitors. In addition, there was relatively little input from First Nations whose traditional territory includes the Chilliwack River Watershed. A second limitation is that the results are not appropriate for detailed quantitative analysis.

Despite these limitations, a few conclusions can be drawn. Based on the characteristics that community members like best about the watershed, it is apparent that the natural environment of the watershed is very important. In the future, the community would like the watershed to be much as it is today, except with improved management of potentially harmful human activities (e.g. recreation, illegal activities, resource extraction, and development). The community is concerned about the impacts of human activities and natural process on the watershed and the many values it supports, especially illegal and recreational activities. However, the community also has a number of ideas about how these issues can be addressed and many individuals are willing to take actions to improve the sustainability of the watershed.

Appendix A. Contact List

Full Name	Position/Department	Organization
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT		
Marie Goulden	ASU Environmental Officer	Department of National Defense
David Barnes	Research Technician, Cultus Lake Facility	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tom Cadieux	Habitat Partnership Coordinator	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Matt Foy	Senior Biologist, Resource Restoration Division	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lidia Jaremovic	Senior Program Biologist, Watershed Planning and Restoration	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mark Johnson	Community Advisor, Cultus Lake	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Brad Mason	Habitat Inventory Coordinator, Watershed Planning and Restoration (CMN)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Bob Stanton	Project Manager, Chilliwack River Hatchery	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Christine Bishop	Conservation Scientist, Species at Risk	Environment Canada
Gerry Falk	Staff Sergeant	Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Chwk
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT		
David Ingleson	Land Officer, Crown Land Adjudication	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Andrew Upper	Land Officer, Crown Land Adjudication	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Kevin Walker	Land Officer, Integrated Land Management Bureau	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Ross Neuman	Section Head, Ecosystems	Ministry of Environment
Sylvia Letay	Ecosystem Officer, Ecosystem Section	Ministry of Environment
Rob Knight	Ecosystems Biologist (CMN), Ecosystems Sct.	Ministry of Environment
Ross Vennesland	Species at Risk Recovery Biologist	Ministry of Environment
Tom Hughes	Senior Park Ranger, Protected Areas Section	Ministry of Environment
Paul McFadden	Conservation Officer, I/C Field Operations, Chwk	Ministry of Environment
Kerry Grozier	District Manager	Ministry of Forests
Gene MacInnes	Operations Manager, Chilliwack Forest District	Ministry of Forests
Jack Sweeten	Stewardship Forester	Ministry of Forests
Barry Eastman	Operations Manager	Ministry of Transportation
Les Gilburg	Chilliwack Area Manager, Roads	Ministry of Transportation
Marny Pfeifer	Ford Mountain Correctional Centre	Ministry of Public Safety
LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
Steve Bede	Commissioner	Cultus Lake Parks Board
Grant Sanborn	Commissioner	Cultus Lake Parks Board
Hugh Sloan	Director of Planning	Fraser Valley Regional District
Graham Daneluz	Planner	Fraser Valley Regional District
Dave Lamson	Electoral Area E Representative	Fraser Valley Regional District
Garry Wickham	Director of Engineering and Operations	City of Chilliwack
Tara Freisen	Senior Environmental Services Specialist	City of Chilliwack
FIRST NATIONS		
David Shaepe	Senior Archaeologist/ Manager Cultural and Natural Resources	Sto:lo Nation
Joe Hall	Chief	Ch-ihl-way-uhk Tribe Society, Tzeachten
Nelson Kahama	Councillor	Soowahlie First Nation
Leeanna Rhodes	GIS	Sto:lo First Nation - GIS
Lincoln Douglas		K&L Contracting (Soowahlie First Nation)
OTHER		

Joldie Hayes		Tourism Chilliwack
Mike Weightman		Insurance Corporation of British Columbia
FORESTRY& MINERAL TENURE		
Steve Crombie		International Forest Products
Todd Ewing		Cattermole Timber
Doug Kelly		Th'ewali Resources Ltd.
Ron Manke		Northwest Hardwoods
Holly Meagher		BC Timber Sales
Scott Meeker		Tamihi Logging (West Coast Forest Products)
Roy Mussell		Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribes Forest Partnership
Phil O'Connor		Scott Paper
		E.R. Probyn Ltd.
Peter Banysch		Western Exploration
John and Henry Savege		Tamahi Minerals
WATER LICENCES/IPPs		
Johan Shearer		I.G. Machine and Fibers
John Arnold		Badger Power Corporation
Hendrik Bockhoven		Domestic Water Licence (Chilliwack)
Rene Carradice		Chilliwack Fish and Game Association
Cecil Loss		KMC Energy Corporation (Tamihi)
Annie Sherstobetoff		Irrigation Licence
Don Swoboda		Canadian Green Power Ltd.
Bruce Velestuk		Link Power Management (Nesakwatch, Centre)
		Chilliwack Power Corporation (Chipmunk)
LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP		
Jack Carradice		Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Association
Loretta Gretler		Columbia Valley Stewardship Association
Michael Hale		Chilliwack Community Watershed Alliance
Janet Hutchinson		Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve
Denis Knopp		BC's Wild Heritage
John Kupp	President	Chilliwack Vedder Watershed Restoration Society
Frank Kwak	President	Fraser Valley Salmon Society
Dave Lamson	President	Chilliwack River Action Committee
Bruce Morgan	Director	Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve
Janne Perrin	President	Chilliwack Field Naturalists
Sandy Ritchie		Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Association
Henk Saaltink		Central Valley Naturalists
Debora Soutar	Coordinator	Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve
Bob Thomas		Chilliwack Vedder Cleanup Committee
Frank Tinnian		Chilliwack Fish and Game Clubhouse
Brad Whittaker	Chair	Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition
Bill Wimpney		Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Association
Mike Pearson		Salish Sucker Recovery Team
Len Ames		Len's Sportfishing Adventures
Montgomery & Lorraine Baxter		High Horse Heaven
Raymond and Pat Cheah		Chilliwack River Campground
Raymond and Pat Cheah		Slesse Mobile Home Park
Brian Coombes		Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation

Brenda Dehn	Executive Director, Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce
Vi Hoyt	Baker Trail Strata Association
Kevin Kennedy	Vedder Mountain Field Supplies
Kevin and Angie	Sniperz Paintball
David Lamson	Chilliwack River Valley Ratepayers Association
Don Parker	Post Creek Ratepayers Association
Wayne and Betty Snerle	Riverbend Guesthouse Bed and Breakfast
Gary Wardroper	Chilliwack Dart & Tackle

RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION/ORGANIZATION

Shonnet Allen	Chilliwack Kayak and Canoe Club	
Mark Angelo	Outdoor Recreational Council	
Susan Baerg	Fraser River Raft Expeditions	
Nelson Bastien	British Columbia Snowmobile Association	
Russ Brown	Chilliwack River Rafting Adventures	
Jack Bryceland	BC Mountaineering Club (Chilliwack)	
Ted Burns	RP Bio, Private Consultant in Chilliwack	
Douglas Dan	Mount Cheam Cycling Club c/o Pedalsport	
Martin Davie	BC Speleological Federation	
Bryan Fogelman	Reo River Rafting	
Mark Goode	Chair, Yarrow	Backcountry Horsemen
Nicole Haseler	President, Fraser Valley	Backcountry Horsemen
Fred Helmer	Fred's Custom Tackle/Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association	
Brad Henry	BC Hanggliding and Paragliding Association	
Stan Jones	Lower Mainland ATV Club	
Ralph Keen	Trails BC Chilliwack Representative	
Leon Lebrun	Southwest Region Director	Trails BC Southwest Council
Randy Loor	Hyak Wilderness Adventures	
Rob Piatoka	Cheam Whiskey Jacks Snowmobile Club	

NGOS

Fin Donnelly	Rivershed Society of BC
Deborah McNicol	British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Andrea Reimer	Western Canadian Wilderness Committee
Marion Robinson	Fraser Basin Council

MEDIA

Robin Chambers	Reporter, Chilliwack Times
Jennifer Feinberg	Reporter, Chilliwack Progress

RESIDENTS/COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Penny Anderson
Robert J. Ash
Barry Barber
Wendy Clerihue
Bruce Dixon
Susan Federspiel
Robin & Monica Hirschman
Edna Hobbs
Terri Holizki
Judy Hollander

Jacob Houvius

Blair Jarvis

Ron Johnson

Jones-Redekop Family

Jenise Krabbendam

Bill Martin

Pete Mills

Mike Mina

Shirley Neufeld

John O'Grady

Bill Oord

Owen Rideout

Karen Riley

Wayne and Betty Snerle

Cheryl Vinchoff

Chris Whiting

Appendix B. Questionnaire

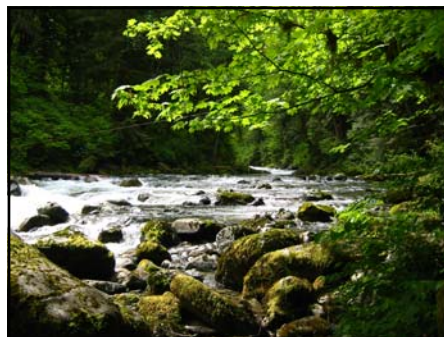


The Future of the Chilliwack River Watershed: Your Thoughts

The Chilliwack River Watershed has many natural (e.g. fish and wildlife), social (e.g. a beautiful place to live and recreate), and economic values (e.g. a place to work and make a living). Our goal is to ensure that these values are maintained for future generations. By completing this questionnaire and being involved in the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy, you will help us achieve this goal.

You may mail or fax this completed booklet to the location on the reverse page, or fill out the questionnaire online at:

www.chilliwackwatershedstrategy.ca.



Please be assured that we respect your privacy. Your response will be analyzed by the Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition to help us develop a shared understanding of values, issues, and solutions in the Chilliwack River Watershed. Information obtained from this survey will only be presented as a summary, which will be posted on our website when the analysis is complete.

The Future of the Chilliwack River Watershed: Your Thoughts

1. What is the Chilliwack River Valley to you? *(check all that apply)*

- A place I call home
- A place where I work
- A place I visit on a regular basis
- A place I visit occasionally
- Other: _____

2. What is the best thing about the Valley to you? *(please describe)*

3. What do you want the Valley to be like in 20-50 years? *(please describe)*

The goal of the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy is to assist in decision making that promotes and improves the sustainability of the Chilliwack River Watershed. Improving the sustainability of the Watershed will help ensure that we can maintain the many natural, social, and economic values associated with the Watershed for future generations.

4. What 3 things are you concerned about with respect to maintaining the natural, social, and economic values associated with the Chilliwack River Watershed? What ideas do you have about how to tackle these concerns? What has been done in other watersheds that we can learn from?

	Please describe.	Your ideas about how to tackle this issue/examples to learn from
Issue #1		
Issue #2		
Issue #3		

5. What would you be willing to do to improve the sustainability of the Chilliwack River Watershed? *(check all that apply)*

- Learn more about the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy on our website
- Attend a Watershed Forum to discuss what we all can do to protect and enhance the natural, social, and economic values in the Watershed
- Volunteer your time to help protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat:
Name: _____ Phone/Email: _____
- Tell others about the Strategy and what they can do!
- Other: _____

6. Please feel free to share other thoughts or comments below.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts & opinions!

Please bookmark our website and watch for regular updates about the project:

www.chilliwackwatershedstrategy.ca

Appendix C. Summary of Watershed Values Responses

Environmental Quality

- Clean / fresh air / lack of pollution (mentioned 9 times)
- The wilderness / unspoilt nature (mentioned 8 times)
- Clean water / lack of pollution (mentioned 4 times)
- The fish (mentioned 3 times)
- Habitat for wildlife (mentioned twice)
- Natural flora and fauna & diversity (mentioned twice)

Aesthetic Quality

- Natural beauty (mentioned 8 times)
- Scenery (mentioned 6 times)

Physical Landscape

- The mountains / remoteness, grandeur, proximity and closeness of the mountains (mentioned 5 times)
- The forest (mentioned 4 times)
- The river (mentioned 3 times)
- The wildlife (mentioned 3 times)
- The lakes

Recreation Values

- Great access to relatively pristine areas, the river and the mountains for recreation (mentioned 9 times)
- Recreation in general (mentioned 5 times)
- Hiking / trails (mentioned 6 times)
- Fishing (mentioned 4 times)
- Hunting (mentioned twice)
- Camping
- 4x4ing
- Shooting/range
- Whitewater

Rural Lifestyle

- Not noisy / quiet / peace / tranquility (mentioned 7 times)
- Laid back atmosphere / rural atmosphere / lifestyle (mentioned 6 times)
- Devoid of rampant commercial and retail development (mentioned 4 times)
- Current density / uncrowded / space between neighbours / large feeling (mentioned 4 times)
- A place to communicate with nature / solitude offered / seclusion (mentioned 3 times)
- Can see the stars / no light pollution (mentioned 3 times)
- A feeling of being far away / remote for now (mentioned twice)
- Sound of river (mentioned twice)
- Lack of traffic

Community

- The people that live in or visit the valley (mentioned 3 times)
- Strong sense of community / ice place for a family (mentioned 3 times)
- Good access to amenities / access for all age groups / close to large urban centres (mentioned 3 times)
- Ability to be a steward and to care for creeks and natural areas in backyard
- Multitude of activities accommodated in the valley (e.g. resource extraction – recreation)

Appendix D. Summary of Community Vision Responses

“Much as it is today [18 responses] except/and/but”...

- Cleaner and more maintained (mentioned 5 times)
- Adequate enforcement of use (mentioned twice)
- No commercial development / no more development (mentioned twice)
- Some growth
- Less damage from visitors
- Restrict access to the upper valley as population grows and impacts are realized
- More regulated recreation areas
- More control on bad campers (too much alcohol / lack of washrooms & garbage facilities)
- Safe walking along Chilliwack Lake Road and Slesse Park area
- Less endangered wildlife

Development/Population

- Allow controlled residential building / little development / development to suit habitat (mentioned 4 times)
- No more development (mentioned 3 times)
- Free of urban build up / not like Cultus Lake (abundance housing & commercial properties) (mentioned twice)
- About the same population wise
- Mostly park land, some resort development at the lake
- Underpopulated and under lit
- Better accountability of those who are supposed to maintain areas of drainage
- No large scale resorts; only small independently owned and operated

Natural Environment

- Maintain natural beauty, wilderness, wildlife, animals, birds, and fish (mentioned 5 times)
- Sustainable / sustainability of resources, bird, fish and mammal populations (mentioned 5 times)
- As close to natural as possible, pristine (mentioned 4 times)
- Clean / clean air / clean water / cleaner (mentioned 4 times)
- Maintain integrity / intact ecosystems (mentioned twice)
- Become more natural
- No more loss of the good features of the valley
- Reintroduction of native animals that were hunted to extinction (e.g. no hunting zone)
- The same as 10 years ago, pollution free, lots of green space
- Greater understanding of sustainability

Human Use

- Maintain access to valleys for next generation to enjoy in a natural state
- Enjoyed by young and old
- Campers forced into regulated campsites
- Maintenance of trails
- Respected by users
- Better behaviour from users
- Facilities for the hundreds of thousands of yearly day users
- Controlled recreation
- Monitoring of activities and effective justice for abuse of resources
- Absences of illegal campers and squatters and late night partiers
- No dumping of garbage in the river
- Significantly less fishing
- Significantly less motorized vehicular traffic on trails
- Peace and quiet
- More sustainable forestry, no clearcutting, small blocks, extensive natural corridors

Appendix E. Summary of Issues and Options

RECREATION (non-consumptive)

Issue Description	Community Concern *	Options Suggested by the Community
<p>Environmental impacts of camping in non-designated sites, especially in the riparian zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to natural environment (cutting trees, soil compaction, erosion) • Pollution (e.g. human waste, garbage) <p>In addition, social impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise for nearby residential areas • Visual impact of damage and pollution <p>*some of these activities are illegal and some are not</p>	<p>Very concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit overnight camping to designated areas only (7 times) • Overnight parking ban (dusk to dawn or midnight to 5am) enforced by a local towing company (6 times) • Install signs stating that the area is day use only (6 times) • Effective enforcement and policing of regulations (4 times) • Implement fines for camping in non-designated areas • Block vehicle access to side trails/roads • Provide toilets and bear proof garbage bins in parking areas for kayaking, fishing areas, fish hatchery, and fishing streams • Public awareness/education campaign, use media • Signs to remind "if you pack it in, pack it out" • Provide waste receptacles for campers and collect trash regularly • Reporting • Deactivate illegal camping spots • More visible law enforcement • Has to be through provincial legislation and follow up enforcement with adequate resources and a mandate to control people and undesirable activities • Deactivate camping spots • Develop a proper recreational land use plan for the valley • Patrol residential areas (e.g. Slesse Park, Bell Acres) and fine and/or remove culprits (e.g. remove tent city)
<p>Impacts on natural areas and wildlife from a high concentration of recreational users at sites / decreased supply (e.g. overuse)</p>	<p>Quite concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chilliwack Lake boat launch and parking area should be left open year round for access to lakes and trails • Restrict access to certain vulnerable areas • Provide appropriate facilities for users (garbage cans, washrooms, campsites, etc) at key locations in the valley (e.g. parking areas for kayakers, fishing areas, hatchery, popular fishing streams)
<p>Impact of motorized vehicles (e.g. quads, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, power boats) on wildlife, natural areas (e.g. alpine, wetlands), and trails (e.g. Trans Canada Trail, end of Chilliwack Lake Road at south/east end of Chilliwack Lake, trail that runs alongside the river from Tamihl down to Liumchen Creek which is designated as part of the TCT)</p>	<p>Quite concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict the use of motor boats • Some restrictions on access to the upper Valley (Foley up?) • ATV access should also be restricted to lower elevations to give respite to the wildlife • control access by non-residents (and activities such as ATVS) stationed somewhere along Chilliwack Lake Road • User fees to support the infrastructure required • Promote natural hiking, mountaineering, canoeing • Regulate/enforce allowed usage • Learn from Canmore • Education and monitoring • Construct gateways at trail access points and build/arrange deterrents for motorized vehicles • Post penalty fines and pass legislation allowing for citizens to provide documentation (video) which enables prosecution • Make more trails non motorized only for serious hikers not easy 1 km loops like Thompson Park • Develop a proper recreational land use plan for the valley

<p>Illegal and harmful fishing techniques / activities & abuse of the resource</p> <p>(e.g. snagging, not following regulations, leaving fishing line and rubber bait behind)</p>	<p>Quite concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase law enforcement of existing regulations / hire more conservation officers (3 times) • Post clear regulations on which species can be caught & retained • Deputize residents to maintain the rules • More monitoring, effective enforcement and justice
<p>Impacts of hunting, especially bear hunting in the Post Creek area and the Yukalaup, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residents of Post Creek • other recreationists • wildlife <p>(e.g. many complaints have been directed at the RCMP, Forestry and Wildlife about hunters and their dogs overstepping their boundaries in this sensitive area and explosive, dangerous confrontations with hikers and residents)</p>	<p>Quite concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not issue bear hunter licenses so close to Post Creek and hiking trails around the Provincial Park • Establish a no hunting corridor (2-10 km wide) to protect and promote wildlife • Create a 'no hunting' corridor preferably from Centre Creek to the Park Boundary encompassing five km on either side of Chilliwack Lake Road to protect the natural spawning bed areas especially the "Yukalaup" and the many hiking trails along this stretch of the road as well as the little community of Post Creek • A corridor from centre creek 2-4 km wide on the Chilliwack Lake Road to the Park boundary would insure hikers and Post Creek residents could enjoy safety from hunters (especially bear hunters) • Hire more conservation officers • Deputize residents to maintain the rules
<p>Risk to public safety & wildlife caused by recreational activities</p> <p>(e.g. careless people with weapons, hazards left behind, fires during bans)</p>	<p>Quite concerned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrol and control unauthorized use of firearms • Remove campers who put the valley at risk • Ensure that individuals who call to report a violation get a response (e.g. especially about fires, especially on weekends) • Implement fire bans earlier in the season • Ensure fire bans in the valley apply to campers, visitors, as well as resident's who may not know that restrictions also apply to fires on their property
<p>Removal of natural products (rocks, plants)</p>	<p>Concerned</p>	
<p>Loss of right to hunt and fish due to aboriginal rights, recreational conflicts, or conservation of another endangered species</p>	<p>Concerned</p>	

* Very concerned = the issue was noted by 5 or more respondents
 Quite concerned = the issue was noted by 3-4 respondents
 Concerned = the issue was noted by 1-2 respondents

PUBLIC SAFETY/ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Issue Description	Community Concern *	Options Suggested by the Community
Visual and environmental impacts of dumping of truckloads and bags of garbage and yard waste in the valley and along the river and road	Very concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement of littering / dumping laws (fine offenders) (9 times) • Education / awareness campaign / encourage home owners to take pride in what they have (3 times) • Closing some of the backcountry roads off to vehicle traffic / prevent access (e.g. along dyke) (twice) • Signage along the first few km of road • Get Tim Hortons to print a message on his coffee cups reminding his customers to not litter • Stronger penalties • More forest rangers • Free garbage dump as in 100 Mile area • Info on where to dump refuse • More 'presence' from the enforcement side / more enforcement • Policing by local citizens • An environmental watch in the valley to record licenses / activities
Public safety related crimes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking & driving • Speeding • Theft • Vandalism • Drug activity • Fires during bans 	Quite concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it imperative that the RCMP monitor this area • Deputize residents to maintain the rules • Increase law enforcement of existing regulations
Lack of area for visitors to safely park and walk along Chilliwack Lake Road	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be 'safe' places at key spots for people to park while they fish or hike. We need to get them off the roadside. • Signs to indicate parking areas (i.e. Thompson Park) and better use of available parking

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DEVELOPMENT

Issue Description	Community Concern *	Options Suggested by the Community
Impacts of commercial and residential development and roads on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual quality (e.g. development and roads built too close to the river - Peach Road & Promontory - sprawl) • the environment (water and land) • wildlife (e.g. from dogs) 	Very concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain buffers back from the river / major green belts • Limit building permits and sales to small areas where it exists now and do not let it spread along the valley • Keep development to a minimum with minimum environmental impact • Involve residents and interest groups • A bylaw to prevent subdivisions (no townhouses/condos) • Develop a code to ensure that any buildings fit in with a country look (e.g. as in French Villages) • Work with City of Chilliwack RE Promontory development • Minimize commercial development • Learn from Canmore • Education and fostering a stewardship ethic • Specific bylaws to enable action to be taken around potentially hazardous or unsightly development • A max of 2 dogs kept under control (leashed/fenced)
Resort development (e.g. at the lake?)	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or false and to what lengths would zoning be allowed?
Proposed hydro power projects	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more if these became serious threats
The sale of land by governments to the detriment of the community	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it a protected recreation area

RESOURCE EXTRACTION

Issue Description	Community Concern *	Options Suggested by the Community
Negative impacts of land and resources use on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the wildlife (e.g. salmon areas) • alpine and wetlands • biodiversity in general • deer and goat winter range 	Very concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate valley as a wilderness reserve (i.e. no fishing, no hunting, and no harvesting (i.e. recreational use only)). • Education and monitoring • Education and fostering a stewardship ethic
General abuse of forestry resources and impacts of clear cut logging and forestry roads on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visual quality • slope stability • water quality and quantity (e.g. erosion, runoff, siltation, water clarity, rivers rising very quickly) • wildlife (spotted owl, salmon, overwintering fauna) • drinking water quality (sediment) 	Very concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearcutting should be more regulated • No clearcutting, small blocks, leave extensive natural corridors of standing trees • Stop logging old growth forests especially to preserve the spotted owl • Continue to monitor logging practices to ensure that adequate habitat is left for over wintering fauna and that sufficient buffer zones for tributaries to the main river are in place • Stop logging near Chilliwack Lake or the River • More monitoring, effective enforcement and justice.
Potential environmental impacts of mining on water quality & drinking water	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent mining near Chilliwack Lake or the River

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Concerned = the issue was noted by 1-2 respondents

NATURAL PROCESSES & HAZARDS

Issue Description	Community Concern *	Options Suggested by the Community
Flooding and protecting private property, roads and the watercourse from floods	Very concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyking in certain areas (4 times) • Create a will to act BEFORE disasters among both residents AND government (e.g. prevention) (3 times) • Improvements / better monitoring / maintenance of existing systems (twice) • Rip rap / gryones (twice) • Obtain grants/assistance from Federal and - Provincial government (twice) • Gravel removal, similar to the Fraser/Vedder Rivers / reduce size of gravel bars (twice) • Environmentally sensitive overall comprehensive plan combined with specific localized strategies • Effective system of ditches, culverts and catch basins • Implement a dyke tax (e.g. like other residents of the lower Fraser Valley) • Create a local service area for river work • Continuous dyking • Ensure that the person doing the work is qualified and competent • Clean up debris down stream
Instability of claybanks and the threats they pose to roads/property	Quite concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a warning system in case of a major slide blocking the river • Do rock work
Risk of forest fire in the valley caused by fires during bans and lack of sufficient planning for fire prevention	Quite concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove campers who put the valley at risk • Ensure that individuals who call to report a violation get a response (e.g. especially about fires, especially on weekends) • Implement fire bans earlier in the season • Ensure fire bans in the valley apply to campers, visitors, as well as resident's who may not know that restrictions also apply to fires on their property
The potential for a natural disaster in the valley and threat to human safety	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Game club is the emergency shelter but it is not sufficient for the valley population anymore - emergency measures/planning need to be re-assessed
Adverse sedimentation of Bell Brook and lack of maintenance of the settling pond beside Chilliwack Lake Road (e.g. silt accumulates and heavy rain move silt downstream among properties in Bell Acres. When floods happen, PEP funds silt removal outside of allowed 'window' time period.)	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No salmon will ever be able to use Bell Brook unless settling pond is maintained by highways contractors

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Concerned = the issue was noted by 1-2 respondents

GOVERNANCE/RESOURCES

Issue Description	Community Concern Level*	Options Suggested by the Community
Lack of cooperation and/or communication between jurisdictions	Quite concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to be more proactive to solve these problems and not allow sub-committees to take over the decision making and hold up progress or allow personal agendas to take over. • This new coalition needs to have the power to direct that certain projects take place. Please allow projects to take place that will physically assist the drainage problems. Ask each homeowner what they are willing to sacrifice, but do not expect homeowners to solve the problem on their own. • It is time for all Canadians including the Native population to move on and come together in one voice for the good of Canada. Let's work together - no "yours" and "mine" - especially in areas like the Chilliwack River Valley.
An acknowledgement and recognition of First Nations history in the Valley and participation in future plans for the Valley	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal players and partners in any planning - greater involvement would be subject to treaty resolution
Lack of resources to enforce existing legislation to deal with the issues	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of issues to the people using the watershed (i.e. signs encouraging responsible use and cleaning up after themselves)
Lack of appropriate legislation or tools to deal with issues (e.g. Forest practices legislation enforced by the Conservation Officers have a clause that states the officer must catch people in the act, which is of limited value as the officers cannot be there in the woods all the time)	Concerned	
A lack of harmonization of standards (e.g. City of Chilliwack and FVRD on runoff and water issues)	Concerned	
Liability gets in the way of good governance and many liability issues may also be used as an excuse (e.g. garbage bins are a liability as stated by a government agency)	Concerned	
Balancing the mix of resource activities (e.g. forestry and forest related recreation activities)	Concerned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land base must remain under provincial jurisdiction (subject to treaty negotiations)

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 Quite concerned = the issue was noted by 3-4 respondents
 Concerned = the issue was noted by 1-2 respondents