

Cowichan Watershed Board

November 28, 2019



Updates

5 Quick Updates

- BC Salmon Innovation and Restoration Fund – Cowichan Weir
- Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan
- Watershed Security Fund
- Old Growth Strategic Review
- Private Managed Forest Lands Review
- Cowichan Chum Salmon Escapement



BCSRIF – Cowichan Weir

- Sometime Patience is a virtue...
- Leroy Van Wieren has accepted the position of Project Manager for this initiative
- Onwards and Forwards...!



Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- Koksilah river experiencing critical flows in summer months, FLNRORD invoked Section 88 of WSA to withdraw licensed irrigation rights from over 30 license holder this summer (Surface water and groundwater).
- WSP a new tool under WSA framework that provides for an enforceable, broadly scoped watershed plan
- Water and Land management “**status quo**” is **no longer working** for Koksilah watershed. We need to try something new...



Koksilah Water Sustainability Plan

- FLNRORD has received \$ for scoping out what a WSPlanning Process for Koksilah Watershed could look like
- Series of meetings between FLNRORD, Cowichan Tribes and CWB staff over last month.
- FLNRORD and Cowichan Tribes currently working on MOU for working together on this project
- Next steps could include working on ToR, filling technical knowledge gaps and engaging stakeholders
- CSAA demonstrating leadership role by commissioning foundational “Ecosystem based assessment of Koksilah Watershed”.

“Watershed Security Fund”

- Follow up on presentation by CWB co-chairs to Finance Standing Committee – request to establish trust fund to resource community driven watershed initiatives
- Recommendation included in Committee report
- Chief Seymour presented to NDP Caucus members at meeting Oct. 29.
- Other members of the delegation included representatives from Our Water BC , POLIS and BC Wildlife Federation.
- Very significant Ask..... Stay tuned.



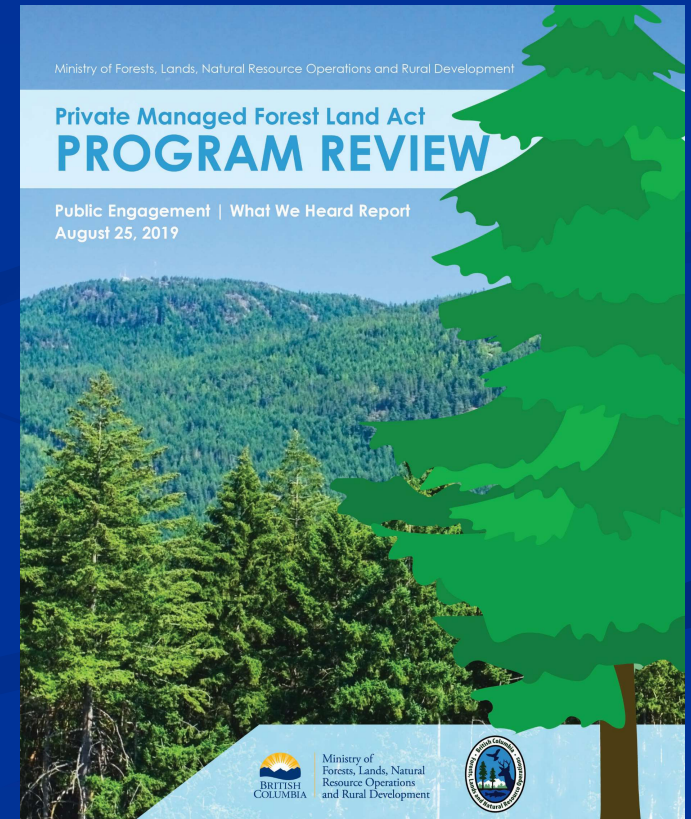
Old Growth Strategic Review

- Government of BC carrying out review of Old Growth Forest Management in BC.
- 2 Avenues for input – completion of online survey and/or written submission (Due Jan. 31, 2020)
- 2 Questions
 - Would CWB members like to receive link to the questionnaire in email
 - Would CWB like staff to prepare written submission
 - Draft could be forwarded to board members prior to Jan. 27 board meeting for discussion, edits and ratification



Private Managed Forest Lands Review

- CWB provided written submission to this review July 2019
- Report has been released; survey results and written submissions available online.
- Encourage CWB members to take the time to have a look (Can forward report to CWB members?)



Cowichan Chum Returns

- Last month reported concerns around low Chum returns to Cowichan River
- Ecological driver – for more than a decade “target escapement” of 165,000 has been met or exceeded (as well as commercial fishery)
- As of last Friday 93,000 chum in river (half 12 year average)
- Other large chum systems on island (Puntlege, Big Q, Nanaimo 3-25 % of 12 year average – and all enhanced systems.
- So.. Bad year but comparatively not so bad.....



Questions?

