

# Cowichan Watershed Board

Executive Director Update

January 25, 2021



# A Watershed Year...

- Weir design to be completed
- Majority of funding in place to construct
- Facilitated process to identify license holder possible
- Water sustainability plan a realistic possibility
- An engaged and informed community
- Resources available to do important watershed work on the ground that has been ignored for decades...



# Resources to move our Water/Shed agenda forward...

## Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund (DMAF)

- Cowichan Tribes proponent
- Darryl Tunicliffe provided brief overview at Nov. CWB meeting
- 24.2 Million over 7 years for flood and drought mitigation
- Majority of funding needed for weir construction
- Includes funding this year for facilitated process to identify license holder
- Ongoing conversations between Cowichan Tribes, CWB and other partners about moving forward with this work





# BC Salmon Restoration & Innovation Fund (BCSRIF)

- Final Proposal submitted today – Cowichan Tribes proponent
- Project steering committee and Technical Advisory Committee in place
- Approx. 1M over 3 years – twinned watershed approach – Koksilah & Chemainus
- Salmon stock assessment focus – to generate population abundance estimates for all salmon species. (No data this century)
- Also development of restoration prescriptions and some implementation in final year
- Will support the Koksilah WSP process which is based on providing E-flows necessary to sustain salmon populations.



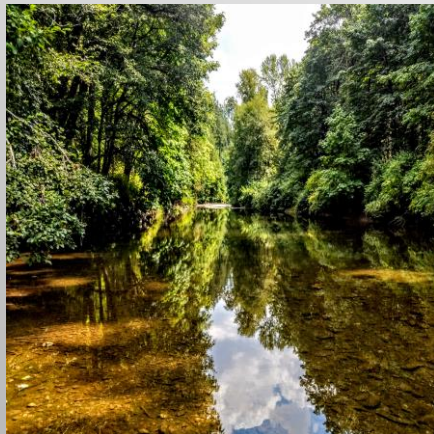
# Conservation Economic Stimulus Initiative (CESI)

- Proposal submitted last week – Cowichan Watershed Board Proponent
- Support from Steering Committee and TAC as BCSRIF
- 500K to be spent by Dec. 31 2021 – twinned watershed approach – Koksilah & Chemainus
- Project focus on habitat inventory and mapping and developing E-flow regime (similar to what we have for Cowichan) & will include significant communication/outreach component
- Team leads: Cheri Ayers fisheries; Heather Pritchard riparian and plants; Jill Thompson Communications and Administration
- Relationship between flows and salmon habitat – and resulting E-flow regime – will be critical to supporting Koksilah WSP process.
- Support secured from CWS, Cowichan Tribes, Halalt FN and Cowichan Nations Alliance.



# Health Watersheds Initiative (HWI)

- BC Stimulus funding managed by REFC
- Proposal being developed – Cowichan Tribes to be Proponent; CWB and FLNRORD providing support with proposal
- 500K with major focus on supporting ongoing WSP process for Koksilah watershed
- May be some resources allocated to increased flow monitoring





# Climate Action Fund

- Grant Submitted – waiting for response (expected soon)
- Approx. 250K; CWB is the proponent
- Partnership approach – CWB to coordinate work by a number of our stewardship partners (Eg. Somenos Marsh wildlife society, Koksilah working group – etc.)
- Variety of Initiatives from volunteer coordination to riparian restoration to outreach-education



# RBC Tech for Nature

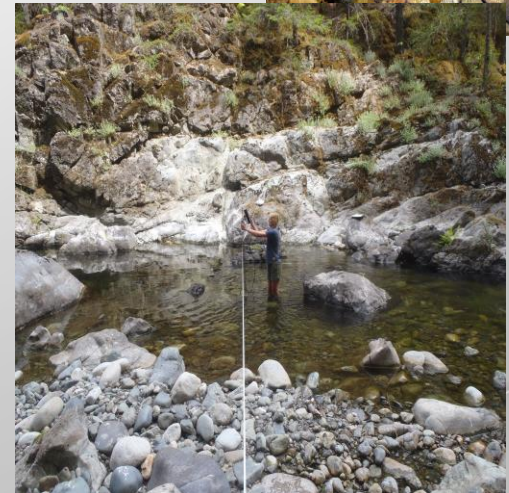
- Proposal Currently under development
  - Cowichan Tribes potential proponent
- Focus on strengthening working relationships between partners
- Secondary resources for website upgrades and WQ sampling in Cowichan Bay





# Koksilah Drought Management Communication Framework

- Small contract (1.5K) with FLNRORD to develop communications strategy with partners participating with ongoing Drought Management Team
- CWB proponent; 1.5K contract
- To be allocated by March 31 2021
- Modus Planning Design and Engagement to be retained to lead process
- Important to do a good job in communicating accurate and accessible information around drought management efforts to Community



2021 Promises to be a busy and productive year!

Huy tseep q'u siem

- Questions or comments?

