



Jill Thompson <jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca>

NEW: Updated Changes In and About a Stream Guidance

Living Water Smart ENV:EX <LivingWaterSmart@gov.bc.ca>

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Good afternoon,

We are pleased to share that government has recently updated guidance materials for making changes in and about a stream (CIAS) under the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) in B.C. Two documents are now available on the Province's [water webpages](#) and **will take effect on January 10, 2022** when they will replace the existing and out of date guidance on instream works.

We recognize and appreciate that you may be dealing with exceptional circumstances due to recent extreme weather, fire, and flooding events as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It is with this consideration that the updated guidance will not take effect until **January 10, 2022** to provide additional time to review and familiarize yourselves with the updated materials.

Updated Materials:

1. [A User's Guide to Changes In and About a Stream in B.C.](#)

Replaces the existing [User's Guide for Working in and Around Water](#) (2005) on January 10, 2022. It provides general advice on how to consider the WSA in planning for CIAS, a review of the relevant legislation, and the types of permissions one can obtain and advice on preparing WSA submissions.

2. [Requirements and Best Management Practices for Making CIAS in B.C.](#)

Replaces the [Standards and Best Management Practices for Instream Works \(2004\)](#) on January 10, 2022. It is a companion to the [User's Guide](#) and designed to be read together. It offers technical information and guidance on mandatory requirements for making CIAS under the WSA in B.C. and includes a list of best management practices that can be incorporated into CIAS planning.

What's New?

The updated guidance does not include any regulation or legislation changes but instead aligns the materials with the WSA and Water Sustainability Regulation and helps communicate the requirements for making a CIAS in B.C. The intent of the guidance is to help proponents avoid and mitigate impacts to streams and stream values when looking to make a CIAS. A [frequently asked questions document](#) is also available as a brief introduction to the updates.

We acknowledge that Indigenous peoples are calling on government to prioritize alignment of the WSA with the U.N Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples under B.C.'s *Declaration Act* (Section 3). The work ahead to align provincial laws requires B.C. and Indigenous partners to determine an approach for the review and development of legislation that is collaborative, constructive and efficient. This guidance refers to the current WSA, with the understanding that the Province is committed to developing processes and protocols to involved Indigenous peoples in the work to align laws, including the WSA, with the UN Declaration.

If you have any questions on the updated guidance please contact livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca. We also encourage you to share this guidance with others who may not be included on this communication.

Thank you,

The Living Water Smart team