

# *S-xats-thut tst* (We Agree): Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning Agreement

---

## Planning Process Update

November 25

Cowichan Watershed Board

# Presentation Outline

- Backstory: *S-xats-thut tst* and process
- Status Update: Xwuqw'selu Watershed Plan
- Status Update: Water Sustainability Plan
- Closing: Messages from Youth

# S-xats-thut tst - We Agree

<p><b>Xwulqw'selu</b> Watershed Planning Agreement</p> <p><b>S-xats-thut tst.</b> <b>We agree.</b></p> <p>Nuts'amat kws yaay'us 'utu qa'.</p> <p><i>We come together as a whole to work together to be stronger as partners for the watershed.</i></p> <p>Hwialasmut tu Tumuhw. <i>Take care of the Earth.</i></p> <p>Mukw' stem 'i 'utunu Tumuhw, 'o' huliitun tst, Mukw' stem 'i 'utunu Tumuhw 'o' slhiilhukw'tul'.</p> <p><i>Everything on this Earth is what sustains us; everything on this Earth is connected together.</i></p>	<p>Stl'atl'um stuhw tun kwunmun. <i>Take only what you need.</i></p> <p>Stsielhstuhw tu mukw stem ( 'i 'u tuna Tumuhw ). <i>Respect for all things; Respect for all beings; Respect for what is around you.</i></p> <p>'Uw-wu ha'kwush 'uhw, 'i 'o' shtes ch 'ul'. <i>Leave it the way we found it.</i></p> <p>Hulitun tst tu qa'. <i>Water is life.</i></p> <p>Stsielh stum tu Sqwutsun'a'lh sh-saay 'i' tu sniw's kwa 'e' 'luhwutss. <i>Cowichan rights and laws are respected.</i></p>	<p>Yaay'usme't kws mukwe' stem 'itunnu Tumuhw 'o' sul'iq'tul, 'Uw-wute'kw'u suhiim.</p> <p><i>Work to bring everything in our environment into balance.</i></p> <p>Hiiye'yutul tst'u to' Mukw' stem 'i 'u tun'a Tumuhw 'i' tu qa'.</p> <p><i>Everything in the natural world is connected as part of our family; we are all relatives.</i></p> <p>Ts'i'tsuwatul', eluhwut tu Xwulqw'selu qa' Tumuhw, 'i' Mukw'stem 'ukw'o' yath. <i>Work together for the health and well-being of the Xwulqw'selu Watershed from generation to generation.</i></p>
---	---	---

## Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning Agreement (S-xats-thut tst - We Agree)

*S-xats-thut, stheyta' tst 'utu xutsmín, shtes kws S'a'lhstuhw tst, tu  
Tumuhw 'i' tu mukw' qa' ni tutas 'utu Xwulqw'selu sta'lo'*

*Agreement with each other to plan how we are going to take good  
care of all the Waters and the Earth connected to the Koksilah River*



# *S-xats-thut tst* - We Agree



## G2G Relationship

- *snuw'uy'ulh* and *syuw'entst*, DRIPA, Tsilhqoti'in
- Shared decision-making
- Community involvement

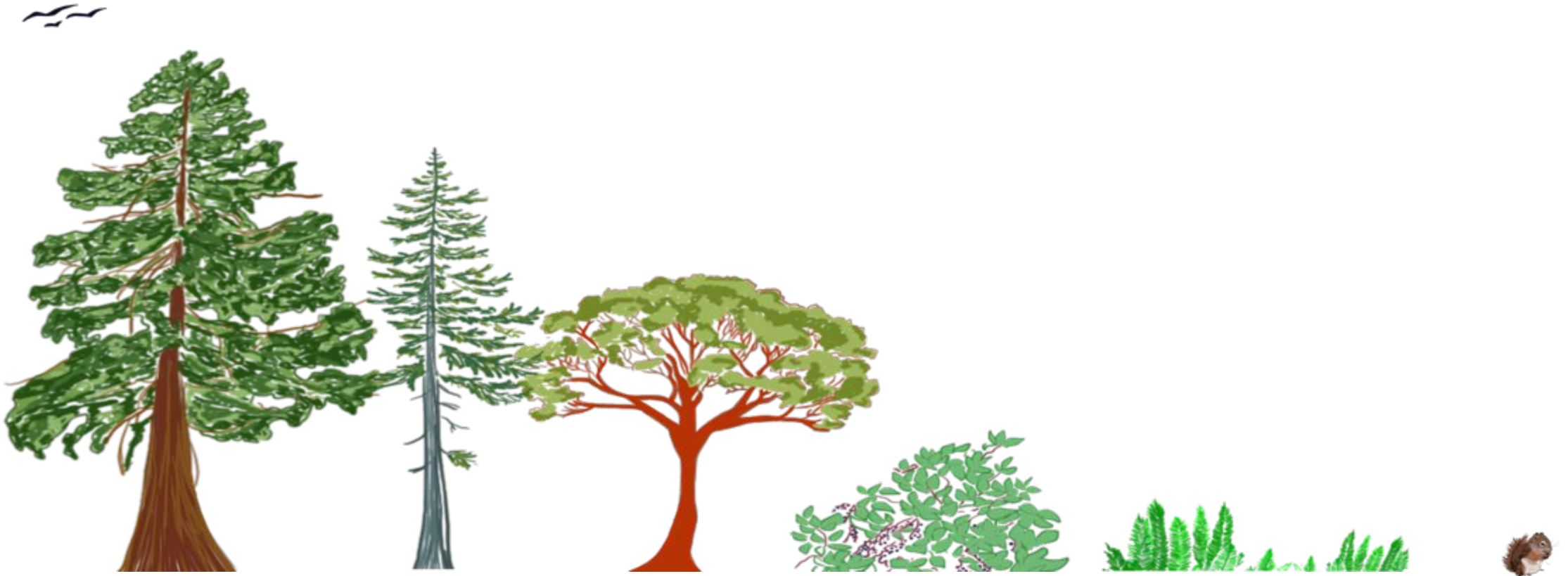
## Watershed Plan

- Comprehensive,
- Tools for short, medium, long-term
- Started with a Framework

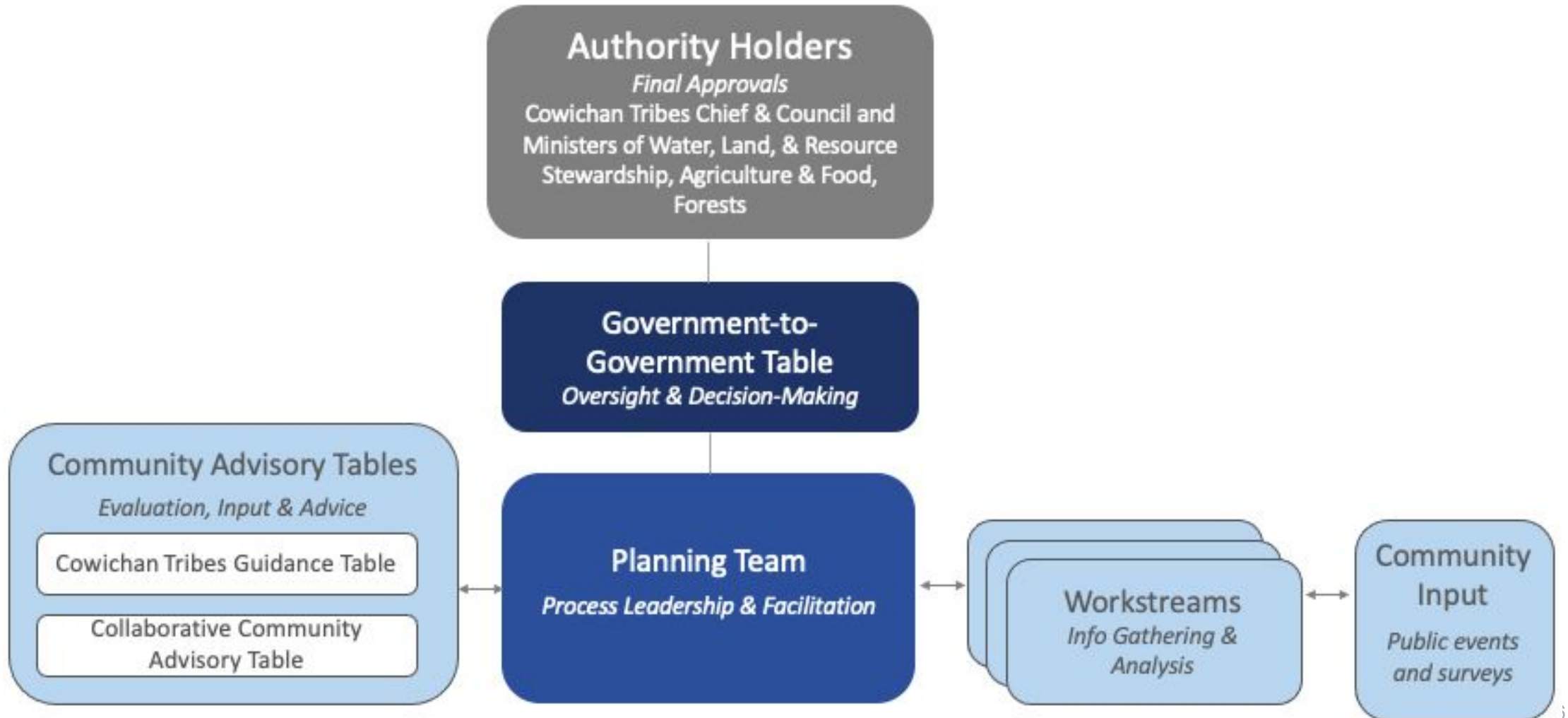
## Water Sustainability Plan (WSP)

- *Water Sustainability Act*- specific
- To manage existing and future water use; licenses to address low flows
- Complete 2026

# Process Stages



# Working Together



# 1. Deeping Understanding of Teachings



How Quw'utsun Nation *snuw'uy'ulh* (teachings, laws and *syuw'ent* (proper ways of being), guide the process, decisions and actions is central to the meaning of this process.

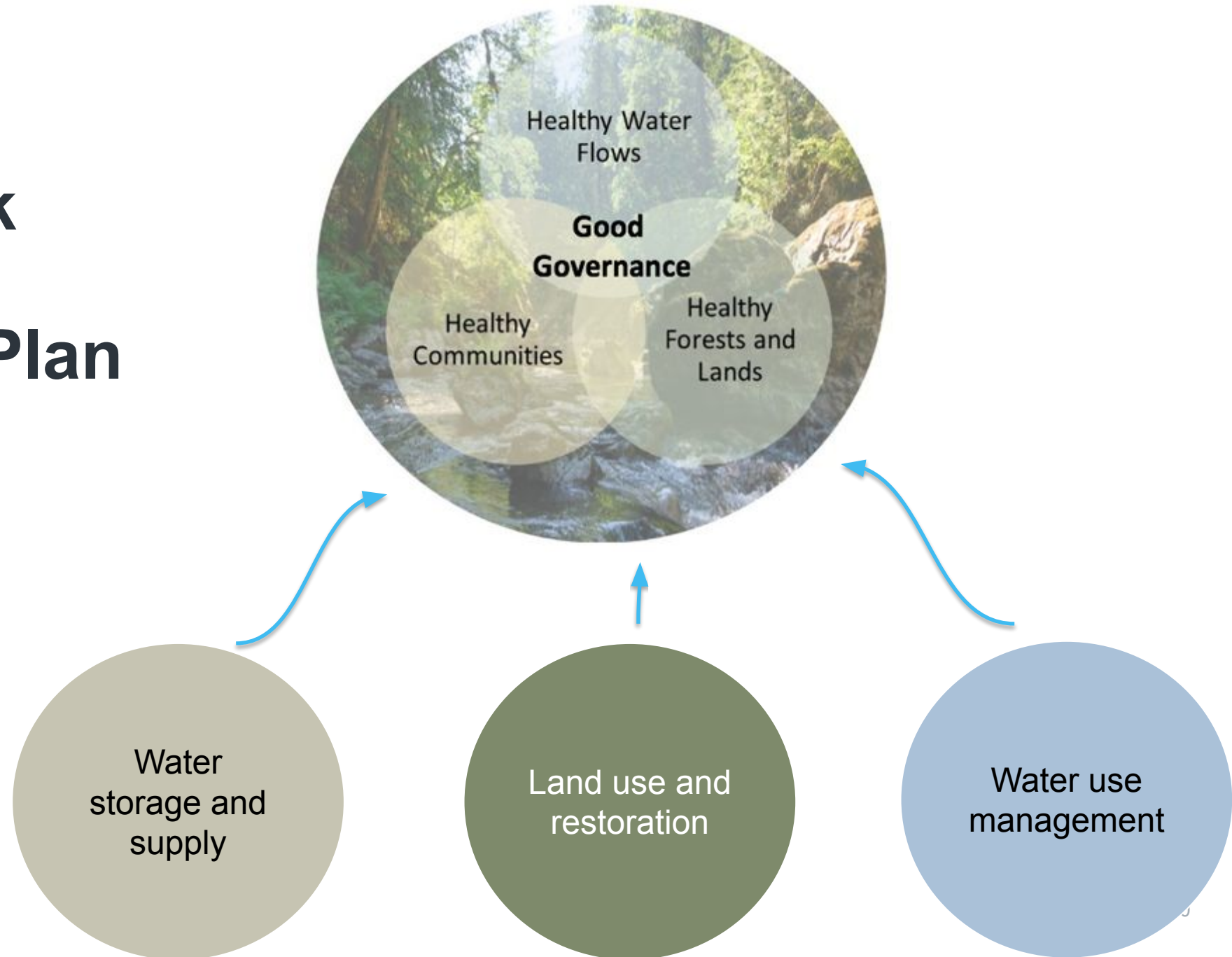
## 2. Shared decision making



# 3. Community Involvement



## 4. Multiple Areas of Work to inform a Watershed Plan and WSP



# Watershed Plan

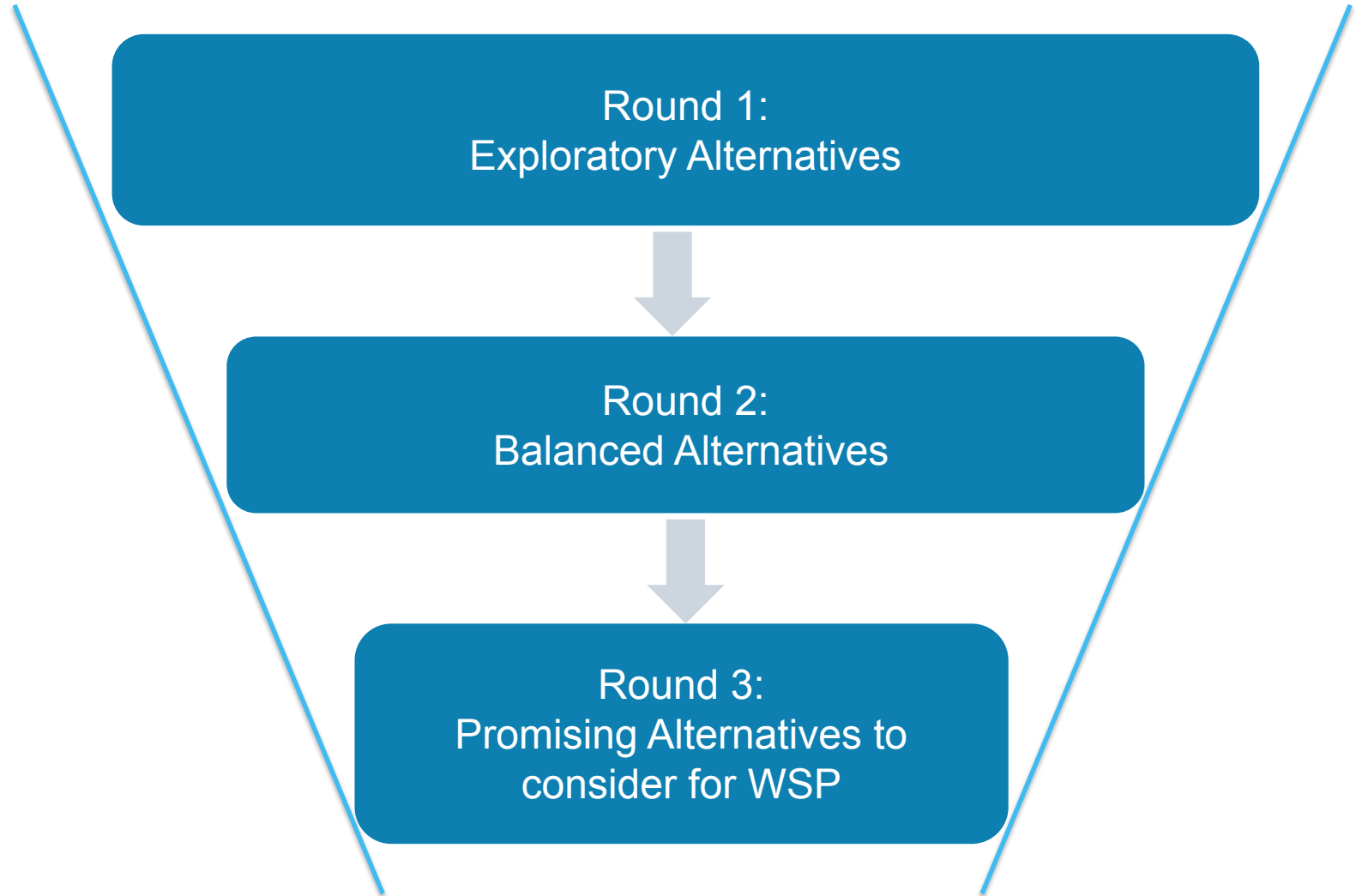


# Informed Deliberations about Alts & Trade-Offs

Decision Criteria	Alt1	Alt2	Alt3	Alt4	Alt5	Alt6	Alt7
<b>Fish and aquatic ecosystems</b>							
• Summer low flows							
<b>Water availability for consumptive use</b>							
• Predictability/certainty of water supply							
• Timing and volume of water availability across user groups:							
• Irrigation							
• Livestock & Animal (stockwatering)							
• Waterworks							
• Processing and Manufacturing							
• Domestic							
• Other							
<b>Financial costs</b>							
• Government							
• Water users							
<b>Other benefits and impacts</b>							



**Co-learning  
about workable  
solutions is  
iterative...**



# Messages from youth

- What does a healthy watershed look like to you?
- Why is it important for Cowichan Tribes and the Government of British Columbia to work together?

