



October 11, 2011

Valerie Cameron,
Water Stewardship Manager
Provincial Operations
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
1259 Dalhousie Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 5Z5

Dear Valerie:

The Steering Committee for the Nicola Water Use Management Plan met recently and went over the Province's response to the Nicola Water Use Management Plan as detailed in your letter of August 19, 2011. The Province's position has been made clear. The Province has no means or intention of converting or adopting our community-led Nicola Water Use Management Plan. The Plan is not a legally binding document and hence we (both the Steering Committee and the Plan itself) have no authority or jurisdiction. Given this reality, the Steering Committee is uncertain what our role will be or indeed, if there will be a role at all. Furthermore, we have no resources and therefore will not be able to meet the Province's expectation for us as outlined in your letter.

We have one point of clarification that we would like to make. In the provincial comments section of the August 19, 2011 letter for recommendations 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28,31,32,33 34 and 35, the lead agencies column was copied word for word from the Plan document. These recommendations all see a role for the Nicola Water Advisory Committee (NWAC). Since the formation of this Committee is part of recommendation 34, and the letter states that the Province will not adopt or endorse the Plan, the recipients of your August 19 letter may have been left with the wrong impression. The NWAC would only have a role in these recommendations if the Plan first were adopted, then funded in some manner and a detailed implementation plan developed.

Sincerely,

John M. Anderson, Chair
Nicola Water Use Management Plan
Multi-Stakeholder Committee and Steering Committee.

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pc: Kevin Dickenson, Regional Executive Director, Thompson Okanagan Region, MFLNRO, Kamloops
Peter Lishman, Director, Authorizations, Thompson Okanagan Region, MFLNRO, Kamloops
Dan Peterson, Director, Resource Management, Thompson Okanagan Region, MFLNRO, Kamloops
Chuck Van Hemmen, Manager, Cascades District, Thompson Okanagan Region, MFLNRO, Merritt
Andrew Petersen, Regional Resource Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Kamloops
Ted White, A/Manager, Strategic Initiatives, Water Protection and Sustainability Branch, MOE, Victoria
Barry Rosenberger, Area Director, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Kamloops
Matt Noble, CAO, City of Merritt
Bob Finlay, Manager of Planning Services, Thomson Nicola Regional District, Kamloops
Brent Mueller, Manager, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Victoria
Chief Victor York, Lower Nicola Indian Band
Chief Danny Manuel, Upper Nicola Indian Band
Chief Harold Aljam, Coldwater Indian Band
Chief Ruby Adams, Shackan Indian Band
Chief Kowaintco Michel, Nooaitch Indian Band
Jim Billy, Chair, Nicola Tribal Association
Robert Pasco, Chair, Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council, Lytton
Brenda Aljam, Esh-kn-am Cultural Resource Management Services, Merritt

Harry Lali, MLA, Yale-Lillooet
Steve Thomson, Minister of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Funders of the Nicola Water Use Management Plan:

BC Federation of Fly Fishers
City of Merritt
Fraser Basin Council
Highland Valley Copper
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Environment
Nicola Stock Breeders' Association
Pacific Salmon Foundation
Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia
Spences Bridge Steelhead Advocate Association
Steelhead Society of BC
Directors, Areas 'M' and 'N' of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Watershed Watch Salmon Society