

Workshop Outcomes

Nechako Enhancement Society - Nechako Canyon/Cheslatta Fan Workshop

Wednesday, October 5th, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BCIT Downtown Campus
555 Seymour St.
Room 283

Attendees:

DFO-Dave Innell, Ed Woo, Ken Woo, Jason Hwang, Dr. Mike Bradford, Byron Nutten

Provincial Government – Dr. Wenda Mason, Don Cadden, Ted Zimmerman, Steve McAdam

Consultants – Barry Chilibeck, Clyde Mitchell, Mike Miles

NES – Dan Bouillon, Henri Klassen, Roderick Bell-Irving, Sherry Fortais

NFCP – Dr. Dave Levy

Topics Expected Outcomes

1. Cheslatta Fan Options

1. Following the recent DFO internal workshop it can be reported that:
 - a. DFO recognizes that there are high costs associated with a highly engineered channel;
 - b. DFO no longer focusing on the zero sediment discharge option discussed previously;
 - c. DFO believe that the highly engineered options reported in the EDI Report should not be the first choice;
 - d. DFO is of the view that the natural channel option A or B, described in the EDI report may be viable and recognizes the need to address uncertainties associated with downstream effects before reaching any firm conclusion;
2. Provincial Ministry of Environment expressed support for the natural channel option and is looking forward to further discussion concerning downstream effects.

2. Downstream effects

What we know:

1. Canyon – Fish and wildlife values in canyon area will need to be considered prior to re-watering of canyon
 2. Its expected that the quantity of material coming off the canyon area is small/insignificant relative to the historical volume of materials previously transported downstream, and materials potentially transported off the fan. This is not to say that potential effects on fisheries resource values will be insignificant
 3. Its expected that the quantity of material coming off the fan could be significant and requires further investigation
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Need to know:

1. Fan area
 - a. need better estimates of both the composition and volume of the material that will come off the fan
 - b. examine how this material will come off the fan under various commissioning scenarios (i.e., EDI scenarios A and B) and various flow regimes. Consider in the context of the following downstream effects – sediment and substrate quality; channel morphology; suspended sediment/Water Quality
 - c. if appropriate examine ways to mitigate the negative effects of material moving off the fan
 2. Downstream
 - a. modeling of downstream effects is indicated:
using the existing information (airphotos and data)
 - i. identify key sensitive depositional and fish habitat areas from Cheslatta Falls to Prince George
 - ii. determine the sediment transport capacity and compare to the volume of sediment coming out of the canyon and fan
 - iii. determine the historical and current sediment budgets to put the proposed sediment releases into context
 - iv. examine the potential for sediment being moved to areas of high fisheries resource values, both during the commissioning and over the long term.
 - b. more detailed modeling requiring collection of additional information may be required
 3. Reservoir
 - a. in the context of 1 b. above, consider the impacts to the reservoir habitat and the cost of water
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