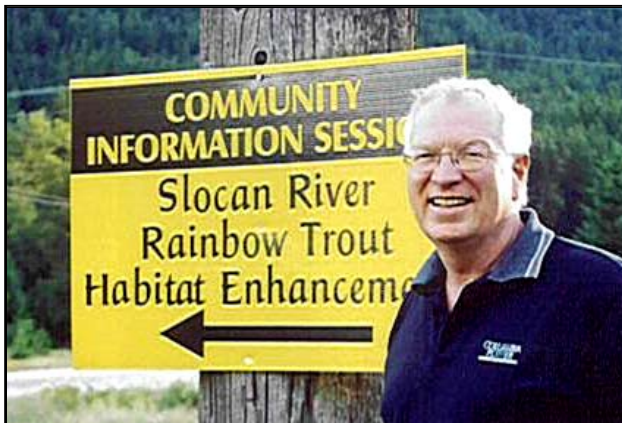


August 2002

The first thing to say...

To begin Newsletter #1, a sincere thank you to the forty or so residents of the Slocan Valley who attended our July 31st Passmore community meeting to learn about and discuss our commitment and concept for enhancing rainbow trout habitat in the Slocan River.



Wally Penner, CPC's Director of Community & Regional Affairs

The meeting began with a presentation by Bill Freeman, Project Manager for the Brilliant Expansion, on the project status and its linkage to the proposed habitat enhancement program. Larry Hildebrand of Golder Associates, Castlegar, (formerly RL&L) provided recent survey data on rainbow trout usage of the Brilliant headpond and the Slocan River. Gerry Oliver (who once did graduate studies on the river) of G.G. Oliver & Associates, Cranbrook, discussed the challenges faced by the sub-adult trout population in the river and the potential benefits of habitat enhancement. Both Larry and Gerry have been retained by BEPC to act as program consultants.

The presentations lasted more than an hour and were followed by a similar period of Q&As and personal observations. There was extensive participation and a high level of interest. Among those offering suggestions was long time area resident Mr. John Braun, who first fished the river for Chinook salmon

Brilliant Expansion Project Update

Brilliant Expansion is a proposed 100+/- MW second powerhouse to be built adjacent to the eastern end of Brilliant Dam. The expansion will utilize seasonal flows that at present spill over the Dam.

The project is being developed by Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation (BEPC), a company created and owned by Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Power Corporation.

Project Design-Build proposals were received in July from industry proponents and are currently being evaluated. Subject to confirmation of environmental permits and overall viability, project construction is expected to start by Spring 2003.

prior to the completion of Grand Coulee Dam in the early 1940's.

Tangible support for the proposed enhancement was demonstrated by more than one participant offering access to their shoreline property if needed for placing enhancement structures.

Also in attendance were representatives from the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. Both officials expressed support for the enhancement concepts discussed. The proposed work is viewed as complementary to other fish enhancement work being undertaken by Columbia Power Corporation.

Though no date has been set for the next community meeting, interested residents of the Slocan Valley will be kept informed of developments through periodic issuance of this Newsletter.

Our habitat enhancement commitment (and obligation)

Fish incremental entrainment mortality was identified as a possible environmental effect in work done for a Project Approval Certificate for the Brilliant Expansion Project Base Concept. A prediction estimation methodology was developed. Very few rainbow trout from the headpond are likely to be entrained by the project, and fewer yet are likely to be killed going through the project's

Kaplan turbine. Being conservative however and as compensation for other possible entrained species, BEPC has committed to create habitat enhancements sufficient to support 250 adult rainbow trout. Assuming this enhancement takes the form of in-stream structures, BEPC has further committed to maintain or replace such structures for the life of the expansion project.

Why the Slocan River (and where)

The movements and important habitat of Brilliant headpond rainbow trout were identified in a population estimate study and a radio telemetry study completed in 2001. Data analysis revealed that two-thirds of the tagged fish spent some part of the year in the Slocan River and 12% spent more than half their time in the river.

Slocan River rainbow trout are a species of local concern. For the past several decades they have been the focus of intensive studies, fishery closures, and restoration efforts by provincial resource agencies. Reflecting this concern and based available biological information, it has been determined that habitat enhancement in the Slocan

River will have the best chance of benefiting not only the headpond population, but also the existing river-resident population.

Candidate enhancement sites have been identified in the river near Winlaw and Slocan Park. Further consideration of biological and hydrological survey information has pointed to the Winlaw area as holding the greatest potential for initial enhancement work. This section of the river is very stable and the threat of bank erosion is low. Sites near Slocan Park are now considered alternatives and possible future development sites if planned initial efforts justify further work.

Next steps

Field studies at Winlaw are underway and are scheduled to be completed later this Fall. The information collected will be used to develop detailed plans for the specific habitat enhancement structures to be constructed in the area.

Alternative sites may also be considered. Conceptual plans for the enhancement works will be submitted to federal and provincial agencies for review and comment. Final plans for in-river structures and enhancement work are expected to be presented to interested residents for discussion some time during the winter.

Assuming the Brilliant Expansion Project is confirmed viable and that Leave to Commence is

granted by regulatory agencies, construction of the first structures is planned for next summer. Start-up and operation of the Brilliant Expansion is not expected before late 2005.

To learn more about this program, or to talk with our fisheries consultants, please contact:

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