

July, 2003

Since we last talked...

At our first Community Information Session in Passmore on July 31, 2002, we outlined the proposed Brilliant Powerplant Expansion Project, and the origins of the Slocan River Rainbow Trout Habitat Enhancement Program. Subsequent fieldwork in August and September centred on river sites near Winlaw. This area has relatively high juvenile rainbow trout numbers and is therefore best suited to demonstrate the effectiveness of Slocan habitat enhancement for sub-adult and adult fish. Physical measurements (i.e., depth, velocity, bed characteristics) of the



Surveying along west bank of Slocan River at Station 0+315W. Can you spot the second fisheries technician?

stream channel were recorded to determine appropriate in-channel locations for habitat structures. The results of the fieldwork were summarized in a report identifying designs capable

Next Meeting – Wed. July 23rd

A Community Information Update Session will be held in Winlaw at Winlaw Hall on Wednesday, July 23, 2003, starting at 7:30 pm. Information will be given on the fish habitat structures proposed for installation in the Slocan River below Hird Creek. Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation and the consultants who have worked

Brilliant Expansion Project Update

Following a two-year, multi-stage, design competition and proposal evaluation that was part of Columbia Power Corporation's Design-Evaluate-Build project development process, the team of Skanska-Chant and SNC-Lavalin emerged as the preferred contractor to build the Brilliant Expansion Project.

The consortium's winning proposal was for a 120 MW powerplant and will reduce certain environmental impacts compared to the project concept that was originally approved. A Project Approval Certificate amendment for the winning design was obtained in December 2002.

Construction of the project access road started in April 2003. Project completion and start-up is scheduled for summer 2006.

of providing suitable habitat for 250 rainbow trout. This design report, prepared by GG Oliver and Golder Associates, was forwarded to First Nations and the Slocan River Streamkeepers for comment and to federal and provincial fisheries agencies for approval. While pointing out that further permitting will be required, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has confirmed that the proposed design is consistent with current approaches to habitat enhancement for rainbow trout at the life history stage being targeted in the Slocan system.

on our compensation proposal will be in attendance. Representatives from the federal department of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection will also be present. Interested newsletter readers are encouraged to attend and participate.

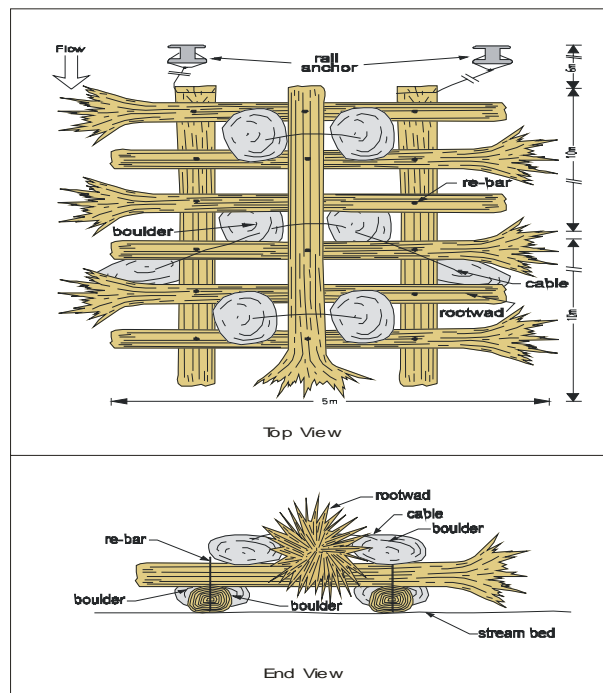
Fish Entrainment Compensation

The Habitat Enhancement Program is a requirement of the project's federal and provincial environmental approvals. The proposed program will more than compensate for trout mortality through the new Expansion powerhouse. Program fisheries consultants expect it will offset total rainbow trout entrainment from the Brilliant

headpond through the new and existing Brilliant powerhouse and spillways. Trout recruitment to the headpond is primarily from the Slocan River where juvenile trout are concentrated and where enhancement structures can provide increased survival of sub-adult fish. Program effectiveness will be confirmed through future monitoring.

In-Stream Structure Design

The in-stream reef structure shown opposite is one of eight types of habitat structure proposed for use in the Slocan River. The structures will provide overhead cover, induce scour pockets along their lateral margins, and provide visual isolation among colonizing trout to reduce behavioural interaction between individual fish. The instream reef has the advantage of providing suitable rearing habitat along the sides and within the centre of the structure. The in-stream reef is suited to glides or runs of relatively shallow depth and higher velocity where in-stream cover is absent. Although the structure presents a low profile, upper portions will extend above the water surface during periods of low summer flow. Individual structures will be identified with a floating buoy to mark their instream position. As a result, these structures will be highly visible to user groups engaged in a variety of water based recreational pursuits on an annual basis.



Installation of Structures

Subject to receipt of final approvals and permits, installation is expected to occur in two phases: the first phase is planned for September 2003 with the second to follow in September 2004. This phased approach will provide an opportunity to evaluate the performance of each design before all 25 planned structures are installed. Proposed deployment sites, both in-stream and along channel margins, are shown in **Attachment #1**. It is intended that the structures will be installed from the shore, with agreement of the landowners,

or alternatively, using equipment in the river. Installation will be managed to minimize impacts to aquatic and terrestrial resources.

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