

Thanks for your input...

Thanks are expressed to the interested Slocan Valley residents who attended our June Open Houses to review, discuss and rank three possible program options capable of providing 250 sub-adult and adult rainbow trout on a sustainable basis. The increased trout will compensate for any fish entrainment mortality that may occur once the Brilliant Expansion powerplant begins operation in 2006.



Discussions at Winlaw Open House, June 9, 2004

As first proposed in 2002, Option A would place 25 habitat structures in-river below Winlaw bridge. Option B, developed earlier this year in consultation with Slocan River Streamkeepers, would support riparian restoration activities and only 15 structures. Option C would involve Kootenay Lake fertilization and benefit fish further from the expansion project.



Overview Presentation at Passmore Open House, June 10, 2004

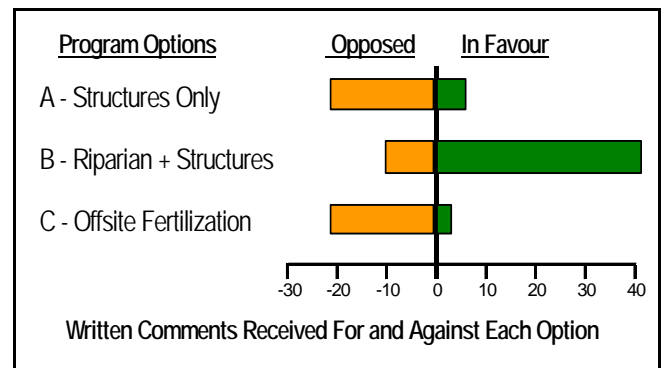
Discussions at the Open Houses centred on pros and cons of each option with respect to environmental benefits, public risk, and overall desirability.

Brilliant Expansion Project Update

Construction work at the 120 MW expansion powerplant is currently transitioning from “earth works” to concrete and structural activities. Tunneling is virtually complete. Behind the protective berm, at the bottom of the powerhouse excavation, the first concrete slab has been poured. Visitors to our recently expanded Hwy 3A viewpoint will see the large blue tower crane lowering rebar and forms into the excavation area as the powerhouse rises to and above river level later this year. In-service operation is scheduled for fall 2006.

Community Preferred Option

Comment cards distributed at the end of each Open House elicited 54 written comments. The comments, as analyzed and classified below, were consistent with the verbal feedback provided. Though reasons varied, more people opposed Options A and C than were in favour of these options. However, clear support was expressed for proceeding with Option B, which reduces structure need by 40% and promises the long-term benefit of riparian restoration



Reflecting community-preferred Option B, a revised Slocan River Rainbow Trout Habitat Enhancement Program was submitted to DFO, together with all written comments. DFO has now conveyed its support, and applications to proceed with structure placements have been made under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* and *B.C. Water Act*.

Riparian Component

As presented during the Open Houses, the Option B habitat enhancement program involves both a riparian restoration component and an instream structures component. The focus of the riparian component will be to support private landowners seeking to protect existing high-value riparian habitat and/or wishing to revegetate unstable streambanks and hillslopes. Public education and community outreach will also be supported.

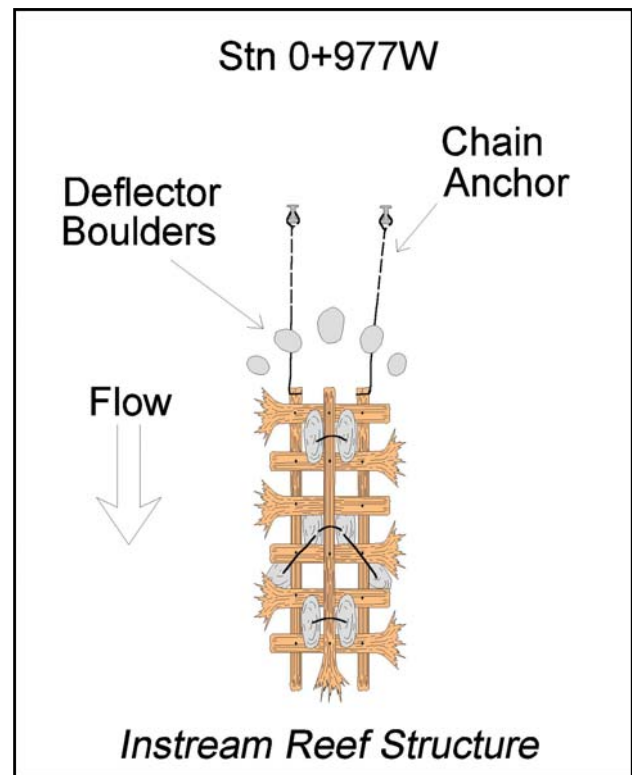
Brilliant Expansion Power Corporation is currently developing the details of the riparian restoration program in consultation with Slocan River Streamkeepers. Program details and support application procedures will be the subject of a future newsletter.

Currently, planning is underway for a demonstration project that will see both habitat enhancement structures and revegetation work occur at a site approximately 1,000 meters downstream of the Hird Creek/Slocan River confluence (see Attachment, site 1+050E). Coniferous trees and deciduous shrubs are expected to be planted at this site in 2005. Over the long-term, such plantings will provide important river shade and contribute woody debris to enhance the natural river structure and fish habitat complexity.

Structures Component

To demonstrate structure designs and to confirm their ability to provide safe short-term to intermediate-term habitat enhancement, six Phase I structures will be installed near the riparian demonstration project. Reflecting input received last year from recreational users, the five structures that incorporate logs and woody debris will be located below the popular Winlaw rapids tubing area.

The map facing (the Attachment) provides a plan view of the structure types to be placed at each location. Deflector boulders are not shown on this Attachment but will be part of each installation. For illustrative purposes, boulder placement is shown on the Instream Reef figure above. The deflector boulders will provide a buffer zone at the upstream end of each structure to help divert floating devices



As shown above, chains to embedded steel anchors will lie along and/or just below river bottom rocks

around attendant structures. Because the structures will be built up from river bank and river bottom (not floating), any danger of passing under the structures will be avoided. Areas where the structures are installed will be clearly sign-posted.

A year following implementation of the first six structures, an assessment will be made of their biological effectiveness. The assessment will include a recreational use survey to assess any impact on water-based activities. Subject to satisfactory performance, installation of the remaining nine structures will then follow to complete the structures component of the habitat enhancement program.

For more info or to comment on options, contact:

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