

**GOAL 3 - Sufficient Water To
Sustain Aquatic & Riparian
Ecosystems Year Round**

**Working Group
Recommendations**

April 2010



Topics Covered in Goal 3

1. Ensure recommended flows for fish
2. Maintain & restore aquatic & riparian habitats
3. Manage land and resources to protect Basin hydrology (quantity & timing of runoff).
4. Monitor water conditions
5. Research to support decision-making

Ensure Recommended Flows for Fish

Recommendation – For 2010 support Goal 2 recommended actions regarding:

- implementation of the rule band; and
- completion of foundational climate, LIDAR, bathymetric and erosion related studies to help determine future actions required to ensure flows for fish

Maintain & Restore Aquatic & Riparian Habitats

Recommendations –

- Encourage the Roundtable's efforts to use the Cowichan Recovery Plan to set annual priorities and present them to the Board by Oct. 31, 2010.
- Request the CVRD lead a local government workshop directed at developing coordinated policies to ensure that OCPs and bylaws result in the protection and enhancement of aquatic and riparian ecosystems and report to CWB by October 31, 2010.

Manage Land & Resources to Protect Basin Hydrology (quantity & timing of runoff)

Recommendation - Host a community and expert workshop on the impacts of climate change on the vegetation and water resources of the watershed and how the forest sector (including the MOF and the private sector) intends to address these impacts.

(Tentative date October 2010. Coordinator to report progress in June.)

Monitor Water Conditions

Recommendations

- Support MOE Water Branch request to reinstate Heather Mountain climate station and enhance inflow measurement.
- Request that MOE continue its hydrological study of the watershed (in consultation with PCIC) to better understand factors affecting inflows

Research to Support Decision-making

Recommendation: That the Coordinator explore with the federal and provincial governments the feasibility of using the Cowichan as a pilot under innovative approaches to watershed management for monitoring and as an outdoor laboratory for studying water related issues