

Program Objectives

The objectives of the long-term Sensitive Habitat Stewardship Program are three-fold:

1. Field Surveying: to inventory and verify (ground truth) watercourses, wetlands, and other sensitive habitat areas for updates and additions to the digital Comox Valley Sensitive Habitat (CVSH) Atlas, and to provide detailed descriptions of biophysical information that can aid in land use decision-making and watershed planning.
2. Geographic Information System (GIS) Development: to digitize field information and manage data for updates and additions to the digital CVSH Atlas; to centralize watershed information for easier access by the community-at-large; and to raise awareness about sensitive habitat (locations).
3. Community Partnerships: to increase public awareness of and involvement in watershed stewardship; and, in turn, to foster a coordinated effort locally to increase information exchange among partners and to reduce potential land use conflicts.

Program year 1999-2000

In 1999 a new project was created within the Sensitive Habitat Stewardship Program operated by Comox Valley Project Watershed Society. In its inaugural year of a five year project, the "Comox Valley Salmon Streams Stewardship Project" focused on the Morrison Creek - Arden Creek watershed in the City of Courtenay and RDCS. For this, staff developed a MS Access landowner contact database and site visit form. Staff gathered landowner contact information based on detailed referencing of streamside lots, using BC Assessment microfiched property information. This project built on landowner contact and sensitive habitat information gathered during the Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) work completed in the Morrison-Arden watershed in 1998-1999.

Project funders: HCTF, Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment Fund.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$31,900

HCTF Contribution: \$20,000

Activities Proposed	• Results
1. 200 households will receive stewardship packages	• 274 households received stewardship packages
2. 200 landowners (LO's) will be contacted	• 274 received information packages; of these, 59 streamside residents were contacted directly by telephone (phone calls to 73 streamside residents were placed), 25 streamside residents participated in a phone call and a property visit, and 190 received an information package only (some hand-delivered, some mailed)
3. 25-35 pledges will be gathered	• 32 verbal pledges were made
4. 500 ha will be under pledge	• This information was not gathered
5. Interest in developing a conservation covenant (no objective given in revised objectives; in the original proposal, the objective was 12 landowners)	• 5 landholders have considered a conservation covenant on their property (of these, one had previously considered a covenant)
6. 100 people will participate in 2 watershed walks	• 76 people participated in two watershed walks
7. Existence of an updated landowner contact (LOC) database	• Existence of a landowner contact database, not completely updated
Additional results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On request, provided project information with other stewardship groups (10), post-secondary institutions (1), senior government personnel (8), local government staff (4), potential funding sources (6), and consultants (1) • Delivered 34 follow-up thank you letters and information addressing interests and concerns presented during property site visits or telephone conversations

Program year 2000-2001

For the 2000-2001 term, the project focused on four urban salmon streams, their wetlands and foreshore areas: Brooklyn Creek, Morrison Creek, Arden Creek (a tributary of Morrison Ck), and Glen Urquhart Creek. Other salmon streams identified to eventually be covered in the long term (6 year timeframe) include: Roy Creek, Millard Creek, Piercy Creek, Brooklyn Creek, tributaries of the Puntledge River, tributaries of the Tsolum River, and tributaries of the lower Oyster River.

Also included in the long-term project are foreshore areas and wetlands and tributaries of the Trent River, and Hart Creek and small, ungazetted streams near urban areas. This list was expected to expand with the continuation of Project Watershed's Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) of other streams, wetlands and foreshore areas. The sites vary and cover a full range of salmonid habitats namely: streams, lakes, wetlands, riparian, estuary, coastal, and upland watershed areas. These areas would be located within the Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zone.

Project funders: HCTF, Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship for Species at Risk Program, Real Estate Foundation, Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment Fund, Fisheries Renewal BC.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$129,422.90

HCTF Contribution: \$20,000

Activities Proposed	Results
1. Conduct an evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the program (1999-2000 project pilot year) Deliver 75 evaluation questionnaires & phone calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed An Evaluation of the 1999 Morrison/Arden Landholder Stewardship Project, which encouraged a conservation marketing approach and more flexibility with the program LO contact; 157 evaluation survey participants (109 Morrison, 48 Brooklyn)
2. Deliver introductory stewardship packages (letter, brochure and map) to 3070 landholders (670 Morrison, 2000 Brooklyn, 200 Glen Urquhart)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory packages were mailed to 4891 landowners in the three focus watersheds (1400 Morrison, 1956 Brooklyn, 1535 Glen Urquhart) Produced watershed maps (11"x17" colour, orthophoto) displaying watershed data relative to conservation of aquatic habitat Produced watershed specific brochures outlining concerns in each watershed related to aquatic habitat generally and specifically, salmon and Morrison Creek lamprey habitats
3. Carry out 175 follow-up phone calls to streamside LO's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 172 streamside residents were contacted by phone during February 2001
4. Conduct 120 landowner property site visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 property site visits
5. 120 landowner voluntary land stewardship pledges made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68 verbal pledges
6. Deliver 120 follow-up thank you letters and any information addressing interests and concerns presented during property site visits or telephone conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 phone call follow-up "thank you" to LO's who participated in site visits Mailed or hand delivered follow-up information to approx 20 landowners who participated in workshops or called the office for more information
7. 120 citizens will attend three community workshops and watershed walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 individuals attended a 17 March 2001 Habitat Nest Box Workshop 23 citizens attended 28 March 2001 lecture on Constructed Wetlands N.B. page 11 of the final 2000-2001 report (erroneously) states 120 people in three (3) workshops
8. 9000 people will be reached through community programs including public presentations, media coverage, watershed walks, and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 2001 HCTF proposal refers to 3 feature newspaper articles, which profiled Morrison Creek, Glen Urquhart Creek and Brooklyn Creek watersheds; page 11 of the final 2000-2001 report states 20,200 people (estimated size of population receiving local community newspapers) reached
9. Maintain and append landowner contact (LOC) information in LOC database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main LOC database was updated with additional contacts and LO watershed interests and issues; a separate database was created for storing information and to generate reports for (the evaluation survey). A commercial contact database InfoTyme was used for creating mailing lists

**Summary of Activities and Results 1999-2005
Comox Valley Salmon Streams Stewardship Project, a project of Comox Valley
Project Watershed Society’s “Sensitive Habitat Stewardship Program”**

<p>10. Facilitate Community Partnerships: to increase public awareness of and involvement in watershed stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of Community Partnerships among government agencies, landholders and local stewardship groups – project partners have accepted digital data and the mapped information is now found in a new publication of the CV Sensitive Habitat Atlas • Assisted Brooklyn Creek Streamkeepers to develop a Brooklyn Cr information and media package as a teacher resource • Presentation made to Highland Secondary School • SHIM survey work completed in upper Morrison Cr (6 km of stream and wetland perimeter); USHP survey of lower 2 km of Glen Urquhart Cr conducted • Provided Morrison Cr Streamkeepers, Brooklyn Cr Streamkeepers and 3 Glen Urquhart landowners detailed reports and maps who will use the information to plan protection strategies
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Program year 2001-2002

During 2001-2002 program funding was not applied through an HCTF grant, instead funding was secured from other sources for conducting the 2001-2002 Baynes Sound Shoreline Stewardship pilot project. Efforts were focused on Mapping and Inventory of the areas of the Comox Valley that were most threatened or impacted by urban development and on building GIS and Information Management tools to allow the community access to Sensitive Habitat Stewardship Resources pertaining to the shorezone area of Baynes Sound. Landowner Stewardship Projects were also conducted.

Similar to HCTF funded Project years, the objectives were:

- Apply Trimble Pathfinder GPS technology and Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping (SHIM) methods to collect data for community awareness and planning purposes,
- Continue to acquire and compile watershed information and make it more user-friendly with GIS (Arcview) technology,
- Develop more community partnerships with long-term relationships through networking, program development, and providing training and library resources through a “conservation centre” approach;
- Increase stewardship in the community by integrating volunteers into the mapping and inventory as well as library development work, building their capacity to act as long-term stewards.
- Assist in the formation of the Community Mapping Network to provide guidance and leadership to communities interested in developing projects and products that increase sensitive habitat stewardship.
- Integrate our sensitive habitat mapping/ inventory activities, landowner contact and community awareness projects into a one-stop local "Community Conservation Centre" complete with a catalogued library, field equipment loan system, computer terminal access, and Streamkeepers and Wetlandkeepers courses.

Project funders: DFO’s Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program, Canada Trust - Friends of the Environment Fund, Real Estate Foundation, MoELP’s Urban Salmon Habitat Program, and HCTF.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$41,000

HCTF Contribution: \$0

Activities Proposed	Results
<p>1. Ground truth, inventory, and verify shoreline areas, watercourses, wetlands, and sensitive areas for updates and additions to the Comox Valley Sensitive Habitat (CVSH) Atlas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several meetings and workshops were attended to allow a review and refinement of the methodology for stream, shoreline and wetland mapping and development of draft data dictionaries for data collection. • Field data have been gathered, processed and compiled for stream sections of Hart Creek, Millard and Piercy Creeks, Beacon Creek and Craigdarroch Beach area. • Acquired biophysical data for streams, wetlands, eelgrass beds, and shorezone areas was compiled in a GIS project where exports for use in the CV Sensitive Habitat Atlas and the Community Mapping Network website were generated: • 5 km riparian habitat were inventoried • 1.5 km Baynes Sound shoreline inventoried piloting newly developed Coastal Shoreline Inventory & Mapping (CSIM). • 23 ha of Baynes Sound backshore riparian classification using Sensitive Habitat & Mapping Inventory (SHIM) methods.
<p>2. Digitize field information and manage data acquired from other sources for updates and additions to the CVSH Atlas, and to compile and centralize watershed information for easier access by the community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update of previously collected mapping information was conducted to allow it to conform to a new standard for SHIM data. Data collected over the past eight years has been updated to meet a new SHIM Data Management and Deliverables standard. Through regular meetings and a focused workshop, Project Watershed staff worked with partners in DFO and the Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust to develop the new standard. Management of data acquired from other sources comprised a small part of this work.

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Comox Valley Salmon Streams Stewardship Project, a project of Comox Valley
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft Internet Mapping application for the Comox Valley/ Campbell River area was developed using Autodesk Mapguide software. This allows public access to data collected from historical as well as recent surveys. • Hard copy map products designed for landowner contact and protection and restoration initiatives were developed. An advisory team of biologists and agency staff worked with our technician to develop the brochure content focussing on conservation of eelgrass habitats in the Baynes Sound area. • Data sets of wildlife (Bird Studies Canada), eelgrass (2 from DFO) & sensitive ecosystems (shorezone classification) for Baynes Sound acquired & compiled in Arcview for review & utilization for landowner contact maps & brochures, and site-specific queries. • The RDCS has openly discussed a willingness to use the high quality GPS/GIS data and develop a more regular and less formal approach to data updates. In discussions with planning and GIS staff at RDCS arrangements for data provision have been agreed to that removes the necessity for "sign-off" of the data by Federal and Provincial MOU partners. The data produced by Project Watershed staff can be provided directly to RDCS staff as long as it meets a SHIM standard, which uses RIC standards for GPS data collection.
<p>3. Increase public awareness of and involvement in watershed stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 landowner contact packages delivered to shoreline landowners in Craigdarroch Beach and Royston shorezone area. • 25 stewardship verbal pledges from landowners attending March 2002 shoreline walk at Gartley Pt • 25 native plants installed by volunteers in an eroding shoreline area in Royston during April 2002 shoreline planting workshop • Black Creek watershed map created by PW and distributed to LO s through the Comox Valley Farmer's Alliance – Black Creek Watershed Round Table • Agreement with Ministry of Highways and Regional District staff to promote vegetation recovery in eroding shoreline park areas in Royston.
<p>4. Establish a process to recruit new stewards, and organize their activities in meaningful ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New eelgrass bed monitoring activities initiated by volunteer group on Denman Island. • Commitment by volunteers in Comox to initiate eelgrass monitoring activities once protocols are established. • Presentations of the project were made to the Eelgrass Conservation Group, the Land Trust Alliance of BC, and the SFU Centre for Coastal Studies workshop in Campbell River - Building Capacity for Decision Making: Community Natural Resource Cataloguing Workshops. • Attended Eelgrass Conservation Group meetings to solicit advice and provide networking opportunities supporting the project.

Program year 2002-2003

For the 2002-2003 term, the project focused on streams in Baynes Sound: Roy Creek, upper Morrison Creek and Hart Creek. Due to shortfalls in anticipated funding and recent boundary extensions intensifying potential development in the project area, field project objectives were revised and modified during the 2002-2003 project year. The result was re-prioritizing of mapping and inventory survey locations and the inclusion of wetland surveys as part of field data collection. Field surveys were conducted in upper Hart Creek, and upper Morrison Creek was added as an area of focus.

Project funders: DFO, Real Estate Foundation, and HCTF.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$97,568

HCTF Contribution: \$49,320

Activities Proposed	Results
<p>1. 12 km of SHIM surveys to be conducted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.5 km of SHIM surveys completed
<p>2. survey 43 ha of wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 ha of wetlands surveyed
<p>3. Produce watershed specific and shore zone area maps (11"x17" colour orthophoto maps) displaying watershed data relative to conservation of aquatic and marine salmon habitat in three watersheds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 650 maps and brochures distributed to LO's and stream stewards

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Summary of Activities and Results 1999-2005
Comox Valley Salmon Streams Stewardship Project, a project of Comox Valley Project Watershed Society's "Sensitive Habitat Stewardship Program"

4. 1280 maps and brochures distributed to LO's and stream stewards	
5. Mail or Telephone 210 LO's re: stewardship pledge commitments and site visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 650 LO's contacted by mail re: stewardship pledge commitments
6. 52 site visits and prescriptions/stewardship plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 site visits and prescriptions/stewardship plans in the Roy Cr watershed (3 streamside and 2 shoreline)
7. 187 pledges gathered (187 follow-up thank you letter, pledge commitment confirmations and information addressing interests and concerns raised during property site visits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No pledges gathered, one site visit with landowner following up concerns about shoreline area.
8. 120 citizens attending 1 workshop and 3 watershed walks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86 citizens attended workshops and watershed walk: 16 people attended 2 Living-by-Water workshops: Conservation Action Marketing Clinic (12 in attendance) and Home Site Assessor Training Clinic (4 in attendance), 15 people attending 1 presentation on Groundwater - Getting Wise on Water, 40 people attending 1 forum - Protecting Your Water, A Groundwater Forum, 15 people attending 1 community meeting for Roy Cr residents
9. 9000 people reached through media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20,000 people reached through media; 2 articles and 4 press releases referenced
10. Maintain and append new information from LOC into LOC database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RDCS provided an Excel spreadsheet of Roy Creek resident's mailing addresses (names excluded)
11. Facilitate Community Partnerships: to increase public awareness of and involvement in watershed stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data accepted by both the Canadian Wildlife Service, for the Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) database, and the Regional District, for the Comox-Strathcona Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Atlas LO's, government staff, and stewards participated in workshops

Program year 2003-2004

For the 2003-2004 term (year 4 of 5 of HCTF funds), Project Watershed continued to focus on streams and wetlands that may be impacted by logging or industrial development and to expand this focus to include headwaters areas that are being threatened by urban development. These area include: Perseverance Creek, Pup Creek, Finlay Creek and Arden Creek. As well, the Regional District of Comox Strathcona planners continued to identify areas that needed updating in the Sensitive Habitat Atlas stream layer and through a protocol agreement, requested that Project Watershed perform these updates.

Project funders: Vancouver Foundation, Real Estate Foundation, DFO, CV Land Trust, BC Gaming Direct Access Grant, and HCTF.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$128,185

HCTF Contribution: \$66,775

Activities Proposed	Results
1. 60 km of SHIM surveys conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.4 km Perseverance Cr; 4.8 km (+11.2 km 3D-Diap photo interpreted) Pup Cr; 3.7 km Arden Cr; 1.6 km (+2.9 km 3D-Diap photo interpreted) Finley Cr
2. 258 ha of wetlands surveyed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42.7 ha wetlands survey (14 ha Perseverance Cr; 20.5 ha Pup Cr; 8.2 ha Finley Cr)
3. Produce watershed specific and shore zone area maps (11"x17" colour orthophoto maps) displaying watershed data relative to conservation of aquatic and marine salmon habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 new GIS maps generated Posted information on the Project Watershed website: 40 Maps; 30 reports generated
4. Produce watershed specific brochures outlining concerns relating to aquatic habitats in three watersheds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Not pursued due to lack of funding"
5. 50 maps and brochures distributed to LO's and stream stewards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Not pursued due to lack of funding"

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6. 14 site visits and prescriptions/stewardship plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Not pursued due to lack of funding"
7. 14 follow-up thank you letters, pledge commitment confirmations and information addressing interests and concerns raised during property site visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Not pursued due to lack of funding"
8. 50 citizens attending community workshops and meetings; 3 watershed walks and 1 relevant workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 people attended February 2004 Wetlandkeepers Course • 38 people attended (7 2-day) Community Mapping and Stewardship Development Workshops (Vancouver Foundation funding) workshops conducted
9. 9000 people reached though media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th Anniversary Newsletter produced (along with media releases and radio interviews for Project Watershed AGM and Healthy Watersheds ~ Healthy People community art show)
10. Maintain and append new information from LOC into LOC database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permission to map and inventory was secured
11. Facilitate Community Partnerships: to increase public awareness of and involvement in watershed stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with government agencies: The Regional District of Comox Strathcona (RDCS, the City of Courtenay and the Village of Cumberland), as well as other agencies such as BC Transmission Corporation and the Ministry of Highways were contacted in regard to this project. • To provide data and to facilitate the inter-governmental communication process, Project Watershed undertook SHIM mapping of upper Arden and provided this data to the RDCS and the City of Courtenay. This information was then used by these agencies to establish a protocol for implementing Environmentally Sensitive Areas Development Permits on watercourses that straddle both jurisdictions addressing sensitive habitat issues. • Project Watershed arranged and attended meetings with the RDCS, and the City of Courtenay. These meetings were conducted for the purpose of establishing an inter-jurisdictional protocol regarding the ESA DP process. The outcome was successful with the City of Courtenay and RDCS agreeing to have planning staff communicate in regard to the ESA DP process. The two representatives of the governments agreed that they have common ground and will continue to meet to discuss joint environmental and planning concerns. • Project Watershed, The City of Courtenay and BC Hydro also met to discuss downstream water management impacts in the Arden area. • Project Watershed and The Comox Valley Land Trust worked jointly in the upper Finlay Creek in the Sandwich Forest area to produce accurately mapped vegetation polygons, streamlines and wetland polygons. The resultant map was a requirement for the covenant process undertaken by the CVLT for the Sandwich Forest. This area was annexed by the City of Courtenay and has traditionally been under the jurisdiction of the Sandwich Water Works.

Program year 2004-2005

For the 2004-2005 term (year 5 of 5 of HCTF funds), Project Watershed attempted to continue to focus mainly on streams and wetlands of streams, that may be impacted by urban development and to expand this focus to include headwaters areas that are being threatened by industrial activities such as logging. These areas include several planned massive golf course / residential developments: Block 71 (924 forested acres slated for development), Upper Hart/Washer Creek, Upper Trent River (site of another massive planned golf course residential plus a private university) and less urban areas discharging into Baynes Sound that have active community stewardship such as, upper Tsable River (potential coal and coal bed methane issues), Perseverance Creek (logging issues), Pup Creek, McNaughton Creek, Apple/Cherry Creek, Cougar/Cowie Creek, Waterloo Creek, Emily Creek, and sections of Black Creek and upper Morrison Creek. As well, the Regional District of Comox Strathcona planners continued to identify areas that required updating for the Sensitive Habitat Atlas and through a protocol agreement, requested that Project Watershed perform these updates.

Many of the planned project activities, however, could not be conducted due to a shortfall in expected funding in the final year. Project activities were refocused and no new mapping data was collected from the target watersheds. Instead, activities completed were based on previous landholder contact and habitat surveys, mapping and inventory work, with the addition of geo-referenced SEI wetland data collection. Efforts were focused on Morrison Creek, Finlay Creek, and Little River (Block 71).

An additional objective for the final year of the "Comox Valley Salmon Streams Stewardship Project" was the completion of an evaluation. The purpose of evaluating the project was to provide insight into the project's implementation and it's effectiveness in achieving it's stated goals and objectives. The "formative evaluation" intended to gather information on the project derived outcomes over the past five years of HCTF funding and the results of this research would be used to guide program improvements for the future.

Project funders: Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk, Pacific Salmon Foundation, BC Gaming Direct Access grant and HCTF.

Total project funding (cash + in-kind): \$67,713

HCTF Contribution: \$40,000

Activities Proposed	Results
1. Maintain and append new information from landholder contact information in a Landholder Contact Database.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information from Landholder contacts in Morrison Creek and Perseverance Creek were added.
2. Habitat survey of 62 km of stream and wetland in Block 71, McNaughton Creek, Apple/Cherry Creek/ Cowie Creek, Waterloo Creek, Emily Creek, Upper Hart/Washer Creek, Upper Trent River and sections of Black Creek in order to gain information useful for demonstrating habitat protection needs to the landholders and to provide information to the RDCS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No habitat surveys were conducted due to a shortfall of funding and a decision to focus on landowner contact, habitat protection and evaluation activities.
3. Produce watershed specific and shorezone area maps (11"x17" colour, orthophoto) displaying watershed data relative to conservation of aquatic and marine salmon habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shorezone areas were not included in the final project year. A map and brochure depicting the wetland values associated with Morrison Creek and several documents about the Morrison Creek lamprey were produced and delivered to landowners. A map and brochure was created for the Wildwood Marsh area (Tsolum River tributary) and information on invasive species and landowner stewardship was compiled in a brochure. A map was produced for the Perseverance Creek area and it was used as a base map for a conservation covenant being drafted for the Cumberland Community Forest Society by the Comox Valley Land Trust Society
4. Produce watershed-specific brochures outlining concerns in two watersheds related to aquatic habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See activity 3 above

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<p>5. Deliver 42 introductory stewardship packages to landholders. These include a letter introducing the project and private land stewardship, along with the above described maps and brochures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In early February, 150 packages were delivered to residents in the Morrison Creek watershed.
<p>6. Contact 42 landowners by mail and conduct 12 property site visits to share information about the natural features, plants, and animals of the watershed and to address landholder interests and concerns regarding stewardship of their land.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instead of site visits, landowners were invited to two Community Mapping events held in the Finlay Creek (Block 71) area and in the West Courtenay, Arden/Morrison creek area.
<p>7. Deliver 12 follow-up thank you letters, commitment confirmations and information addressing interests and concerns presented during property site visits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up was conducted on a habitat securement proposal put forward to PECP for land acquisition in the Morrison Creek area. Agencies seem to be in disarray and not receptive to the proposal at this time.
<p>8. Assist with other levels of land stewardship, such as conservation covenants, by way of providing information and referrals to landholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance has been provided on an as needed basis to the Cumberland Community Forest Society and the Comox Valley Land Trust in aid of covenants for the Sandwick Forest and the Cumberland Community Forest. Maps have been provided to Ducks Unlimited, the Hart Creek Watershed Society, Morrison Creek Streamkeepers and the Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards for planning purposes.
<p>9. Maintain and build new datasets for display on an Internet-based GIS application (Mapguide) that provides Free access to all habitat survey data collected in the Comox Valley and Campbell River areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Comox Valley Naturalists, procedures for collecting invasive species data were developed and a two-month project to identify areas was initiated. A new Invasive Species Atlas has been created and is now hosted by the Community Mapping Network. The map applications are web-served on the CMN website and linked on Project Watershed's "Maps and Reports" page on our web site found at www.projectwatershed.bc.ca. Also on this web page are downloadable versions of the reports, maps and brochures produced during this project.
<p>10. For landholders with specific concerns, restoration prescriptions for aquatic and riparian habitat improvements will be offered and developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None developed in this project year.
<p>11. Continue to support Streamkeepers assisted in earlier stages of the project through the provision of information & GIS maps and assistance with project proposals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See activities 8 and 9 above.
<p>12. Host 3 watershed walks, and 1 relevant workshop on stewardship opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop was hosted for the upper Finlay Creek and Little River area (Block 71 recently annexed into the City of Courtenay). Maps of the area were presented and a community mapping exercise was initiated to allow the public an opportunity to offer information to Project Watershed about issues and values associated with the watershed areas. • A community mapping workshop was also arranged for the West Courtenay (Arden/Morrison Creek) area to raise awareness of watershed issues and create more opportunities for landowners to participate in stewardship activities.
<p>13. Facilitation of community partnerships among government agencies, landholders and local stewardship groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted the Comox Valley Land Trust to assemble a regional conservation planning project to build on our inventory and landowner contact work.
<p>14. Public outreach to 9000 people through community programs including: public presentations, media coverage, watershed walks and workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media work was ongoing and incorporated into each activity
<p>15. Produce an evaluation report of project successes with the objective of modifying and/or tailoring future project activities to achieve increased protection of sensitive habitat.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Final Project Evaluation report was prepared by a contractor and this will be used to guide future project activities (see appendix C).