

Part 1: Summary

***Please see comments for instructions.

SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE

| | 2018-19 Budget | 2018-19 Spending | Variance |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Haida Gwaii (various) | \$14,200 | \$13,507 | -\$693 |
| Yakoun River | \$7,575 | \$10,112 | \$2,537 |
| Tlell River | \$8,000 | \$1,285 | -\$6,715 |
| Mainland Coast (Various) | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| TOTAL | \$29,775 | \$24,904 | -\$4,871 |

General Project Summary

There were three components to the QWS projects in 2018-19. A River Guardian program was successfully established in partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation and the Haida Fisheries. This project ran smoothly in 2018-19 and has already produced meaningful insights into the spatial-temporal distribution and behaviour of steelhead anglers on the Yakoun River, as well as providing an opportunity for angler engagement. Based on the success of this project, we will likely extend the Guardian efforts to include waters other than Yakoun in the coming year. The Yakoun River juvenile steelhead electrofishing surveys went smoothly in 2018-19. This project again provided a valuable opportunity to partner with the BC Conservation Foundation and the Haida Fisheries program, and is providing contemporary and fishery-independent data for the Yakoun steelhead stock. Together, these two projects are promoting better information sharing and a collaborative stewardship approach with Haida Nation. The Tlell project did not progress as we had hoped in Year 1 - this project is being done in partnership with the Tlell Watershed Society (TWS) to address a local interest for liberalization of cutthroat trout harvest regulations. We completed an on-site meeting with TWS in September and an evaluation of logistical options, as well as provided them with sampling equipment and instruction on fish capture considerations. However, they were unable to complete the anticipated fish capture and tagging. We have continued to make ourselves available to them and are communicating in hopes that this partnership will be more successful in 2019-20. As a result of these difficulties, there were unspent QWS dollars from this project component in 2018-19 (~\$5.5k) which we are returning.

Capital Asset Purchase information:

n/a

Additional Supporting Information

Data reports have been completed for the River Guardian patrols and the steelhead juvenile electrofishing surveys. These are still in raw form but are currently on file and available at the Regional office.

Photos

Two photos are included with this report showing juvenile steelhead electrofishing on Yakoun River - September 2018.