

Summary

**SUMMARY FUNDING TABLE**

	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Spending	Variance
Dean River	\$104,101	\$110,897	\$6,796
Horsefly River	\$30,000	\$0	-\$30,000
Chilcotin River	\$12,300	\$0	-\$12,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,401</b>	<b>\$110,897</b>	<b>-\$35,504</b>

**General Project Summary**

The Dean and Chilcotin River Guardian programs were successfully completed 2018 to 2021 thanks to HCTF funding. On the Dean River, the creel census was conducted from June through September and the resulting information was used to assess the steelhead population and implement the Angling Management Plan. The program on the Chilcotin River assessed angler effort, catch, and harvest on the at-risk steelhead population and found fishing pressure to be very low and education effective at deterring illegal fishing. Challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in cancelling the 2020 creel survey on the Horsefly river and added costs to the Dean River Guardian Program. The Chilcotin River steelhead Guardian Program has been successfully transferred to the Chilcotin National Government and the Conservation Service Officer Service and will not require HCTF funds in the near future.

**Progress and Challenges in Achieving 2018-2021 Project Outcomes**

The first two years of the project went as scheduled and within budget. After two years of using HCTF funds, the Chilcotin River Steelhead guardian program has shifted in its delivery and is now conducted via a partnership between the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and the Tsilqot'in National Government (TNG). This is a preferred option as TNG members are those most commonly participating in the fishery, and having joint enforcement with TNG and COS should allow more patrols to occur and enforcement more effective. The third year (2020-2021) of the Cariboo Quality Waters Program presented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Horsefly River creel survey was deferred to future years to more accurately evaluate fishery parameters (angler use and catch rates, angler demographics). Rental trucks were needed to allow physical distancing among crews which came at an added expense. However, despite the many challenges associated with the pandemic, the Dean River Guardian Program was conducted in 2020, the new Dean River cabin was built, and Guardians assisted with the Dean River Tagging and Telemetry HCTF seed

**Capital Asset Purchase information:**

A new trailer, raft and jet boat with motor were purchased during the past three years for the Dean River Guardian Program. These investments will improve program efficiency and safety. Purchases were on budget.

**Additional Supporting Information**

A report is drafted annually to document the work and results from the Dean River Guardian Program. Reports from the past three years are: Leong, M.R. (2020). Dean River Guardian Program Preliminary Report. British Columbia Conservation Foundation. Williams Lake, B.C. Regional Fisheries Report. 11 pages. Leong, M.R. (2019). Dean River Guardian Program Summary Report. British Columbia Conservation Foundation. Williams Lake, B.C. Regional Fisheries Report No. CA-2019-1. 17 p Wieduwilt, B Dean River Guardian Program Summary Report 2018. British Columbia Conservation Foundation. Williams Lake, B.C. Regional Fisheries Report No. CA-2018-1 (15) p.