

Together for Wildlife

Together for Wildlife HCTF Conservation Fellowship Recipient 2023



Megan Roxby

Megan is a Master's student at Simon Fraser University. Her research is focused on exploring governance mechanisms for the potential establishment of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) or other Indigenous-led conservation designation for the Skagit Headwaters.

The Skagit Headwaters is a region of deep cultural significance for numerous First Nations in both Canada and the United States. This area offers a unique chance to develop a culturally informed, cross-jurisdictional IPCA. Given the diverse range of stakeholders and rights holders involved, a collaborative approach is essential to honour various belief systems and explore jurisdictional options for creating an international IPCA.

Megan's research aims to identify effective governance mechanisms for the Skagit Headwaters IPCA. Her work contributes to the larger project led by the Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Center (SRRMC) in support of the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) and in collaboration with the Province of British Columbia (BC). This initiative seeks to lay the groundwork for developing a framework for an Indigenous IPCA, tribal park, or other Indigenous-led conservation model in the region.

Megan's project employs methods from the Collaborative Stewardship Forum (CSF) S'ólh Téméxw Integrity Analysis (STIA) to ensure that it remains Indigenous-led and aligned with Stó:lō principles. It takes a holistic, interconnected, intergenerational approach to relationships, reflecting the Stó:lō worldview and operating within a watershed-based perspective.

The Skagit Headwaters project directly works towards Canada's area-based conservation goals and path towards decolonization and reconciliation. Indigenous-led conservation is a just and effective means of doing so which supports First Nations sovereignty over their traditional territory. This project has the potential to be the first cross-jurisdictional IPCA between Canada and the USA which could work to set a precedent moving forward within the growing field of Indigenous-led management.

