

MURRAY CREEK Rehabilitation Project

About Us...

We bring together land owners, businesses, schools and environmental stewards to collaborate to rehabilitate Murray Creek. We hope to increase rainbow trout and salmon stocks, as well as improve water quality.



Resetting bridge footing on Murray Creek. (WS)

"It is important to save the creek from unnecessary erosion as it is a vital water, fish, recreation and wildlife resource. It is important to improve the fish habitat and to see agriculture protecting and properly using the creek."

Gaylon McKee, Participating Farmer

OUR GOAL: To enhance the habitat along Murray Creek for the benefit of all users, fish, and wildlife.



A cow pasture under consideration for rehabilitation treatments. (WS)

What Are Riparian Areas?

Riparian areas are the transition zones from water to stream bank. They include the ribbon of delicate grasses, shrubs, and vegetation along the stream edge and provide shelter and shade for numerous insects, fish, and wildlife.

How Riparian Areas Work:

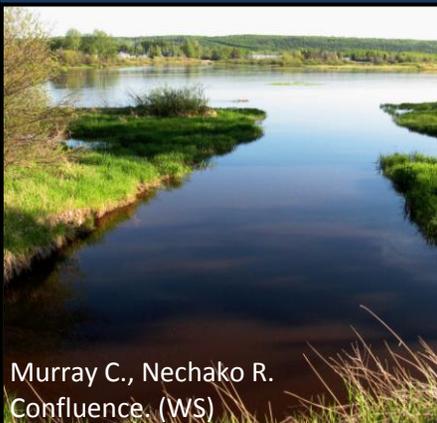
- Riparian areas improve water quality by filtering and trapping sediment from runoff.
- They reduce erosion by offering stability to the stream banks and shorelines.
- They reduce algae blooms, store nutrients, and trap contaminants such as pesticides.

Did You Know?

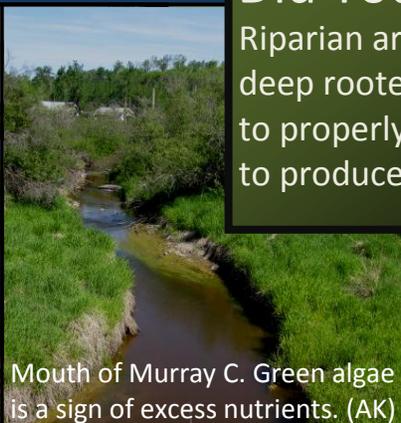
Riparian areas need deep rooted vegetation to properly function and to produce clean water.

Fish and Fish Habitat

Murray Creek flows into the Nechako River within Vanderhoof town limits, meters away from where sturgeon choose to spawn. Silt, sediment and contaminants that are not properly filtered enter the Nechako River and settle on the Sturgeon spawning grounds. Excess sediment in fish bearing water courses can: clog and abrade fish gills, impair visual feeders (eg. Trout), suffocate eggs, lead to poor egg and fry development, and can clog sheltered areas where young fish find protection to survive.



Murray C., Nechako R. Confluence. (WS)



Mouth of Murray C. Green algae is a sign of excess nutrients. (AK)

Our Successes To Date:

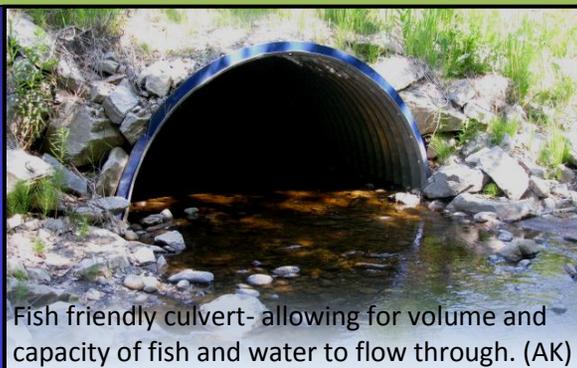
- 15 km of streams assessed and mapped
- 12.5 km of fencing over 3 ranches
- 3000 seedlings planted
- 1 in stream rehabilitation project
- 1 bridge abutment reset
- Over \$84,000 raised for this year's Program
- Work done on drainage ditches above Striegler Pit by L&M Lumber to eliminate siltation into Murray Creek.

Future Plans:

Work towards the development of a marketing strategy that brands the ranching community in a positive way for "water stewardship planning."

Thanks to our Partners!

- Avison Management
- BC Cattlemen's Association- FRISP
- BC Forest Service- BC Timber Sales
- Bud Pye Contracting
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Fraser Basin Council
- Fraser Salmon and Watershed Program
- Habitat Conservation Trust Fund
- Katimavik- Canada's Youth Volunteer Work Group
- Nechako Excavating Ltd
- Nechako Trading Company
- NVSS- Chris Mushamanski Classes
- Pacific Salmon Foundation
- Rio Tinto Alcan
- Stewardship of BC
- Village Inn Restaurant
- Yellowhead Road and Bridge



Fish friendly culvert- allowing for volume and capacity of fish and water to flow through. (AK)

Did You Know?

Poorly maintained riparian areas do not filter sediments properly. Sediments can cover areas where fish feed, hide from predators and lay eggs.



Healthy riparian zone. (WS)

Creeks crossing open fields are subject to contaminants, fertilizer and runoff. They also have less protection from the sun's rays and can heat up quickly. Increased water temperatures and excessive nutrients can lead to algae blooms which can lower water oxygen levels. Cool, clear, oxygenated water is vital to fish health and survival.

What You Can Do...

- Maintain a **vegetated buffer** along riparian areas while cultivating, spreading manure and fertilizing.
- Make sure **livestock cannot access riparian areas** from confined areas such as pens or feedlots.
- Avoid** working the soil and pasturing cattle near riparian areas when **soils are wet**.
- Provide **alternate water sources** for your livestock and fence off sensitive areas.
- Avoid manure build-up** and do not spread manure on frozen ground.
- Place supplements and **feed away** from riparian areas. (A minimum of 30 meters, as stated under the Provincial Agriculture Waste Control Regulation).
- Distribute livestock evenly** and exercise good pasture management.
- Complete an **Environmental Farm Plan**.

Resources

- If you are interested in rehabilitation work on Murray Creek contact Richard Martens or Wayne Salewski for information, materials, and supplies.
Richard: 250-567-9402 Wayne: 250-567-9542
- The Murray Creek rehabilitation group will plant seedlings along the M.C. riparian corridor at no cost to you. Call **Wayne: 250-567-9542**
- The next Murray Creek Newsletter will be released Winter/Spring 2011 and will include more tips, updates and plans for the 2011 Summer.**

Undefined creek banks make navigation by fish and aquatic life difficult. Loss of native plant species and lack of biodiversity lowers ecosystem stability and health. (AK)

Did You Know?

Livestock are healthier and have greater weight gains when they have access to clean water.

Get Involved!

- Learn More? Contact **Wayne Salewski (Project Leader) 250-567-9542**
- Making an Environmental Farm Plan? Contact **EFP Advisor Laura Grafton Ph. 250-967-4272 Fax: 250-967-4291 email: bark@explornet.com**

(Photos for newsletter taken by Wayne Salewski and Alana Kulchar)

