

## What seems to be Common Amongst these Watersheds ?

- Crisis: A Natural Disaster; Being Nominated for 'the most Endangered River List'; Recognition of 'Things not Right' or 'This should be Valued'.
- Start-up: It takes several years to do this; **First Nations involved from the start.**
- Mature Form: Varies a lot !
- How does it work? Well, it depends... Generally it's a **working consensus** (ie: must be able to live with the decisions made by the table).
- Style: Varies a lot; From (top-down & very structured) all the way to (very informal) roundtable discussion.
- Staff & Funding:: **Paid staff is usually funded if some agency(s) are involved**; Still needs committed volunteers; 'Money follows Success' (often quoted, but...?)
- Annual Work Plan: **Successful groups have them**; Often, projects that needed to be done were identified and ranked early, and worked on while setting up structure.
- Assets: Oddly, not much celebration of 'what they actually have'.
- Challenges: **All groups** find their wonderful, underlying assets are seriously **challenged by modern human behavior** as well as by natural processes (erosion, etc.)
- What do they want? The health of the river restored (**take it off that list!**); The river should be managed for the good of all.
- Guiding Principles: **Respect, Inclusion, Openness**; (this varied a lot because of a confusion between values, approaches, actions, and attitudes)
- What broke the Ice? **Bus Tours!**
- Who is not here? **There is always some group** (how to get them involved is the question); Again, oddly, the agricultural industry is one of them.
- Label: Most watersheds seem to see themselves as dominantly urban, rural, recreational or industrial; They may also be mixed, having different classifications along the watershed reaches.
- Other **Strategic Thinking; Definition of Jurisdictional Distribution; Love of Place; Atlas; Heritage Values; Dike opened or pulled back to Restore Estuarine Function; Land purchase to Protect Sensitive Habitat; Sound Science & Local Knowledge; Move forward on projects while planning; 'Pick low-hanging fruit'; Working Consensus; Develop Trust; No Finger-pointing;**

# Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy




Crisis:	In 2005, the river was returned to the 'Most Endangered' list.
Start-up:	<p>In 2003, this river was selected as a pilot project for a watershed-based fish sustainable plan (WFSP) sponsored by DFO &amp; MWLEP.</p> <p>In 2004, a partnership of government agencies, First Nations and community groups was struck to develop a strategy; Project Team formed; public forum in 2005; government forum in 2006; terms of reference defined; issues identified; issue working groups assigned (which reported back to the project team);</p> <p>'Watershed Issues and Recommendations' &amp; 'Implementation,' documents were produced in 2009.</p>
How does it work?	<p>Its too early to tell but it looks like 'top-down'.</p> <p>It was not intended to be legislative driven or result in new regulations</p>
Style:	Collaborative.
Staff & Funding::	Staff?; Initial stages funded by Project Team partners
Annual Work Plan:	?, Identified 14 separate issues (grouped into 4 categories) very early on in the process and work was focused on producing recommendations for each one of those.
Assets:	Committed Volunteer base; High Recreational and Historic values; Fisheries & Natural Resources; One hour Commute from a major urban centre (Vancouver); CFB closed; Urban Growth might be restricted by topography..
Challenges:	Negative human behavior re Recreation and Sport Fisheries; Illegal dumping; Natural river hazards; Lack of Respect for First Nations Cultural Heritage, etc.
What do they want?	Restore it as it was; Take it off the list.
Guiding Principles:	Common understanding of watershed values based on sound science and local knowledge; Respect, Inclusive, Open.
What broke the Ice?	
Who is not here?	
Label:	Rural/Recreational
Other:	A really fabulous Atlas; 'Take action while thinking about it'; 'Strategic thinking at all levels'.



Fraser Valley Regional District  
**Chilliwack River  
 Watershed Atlas**

ALR

**LEGEND**

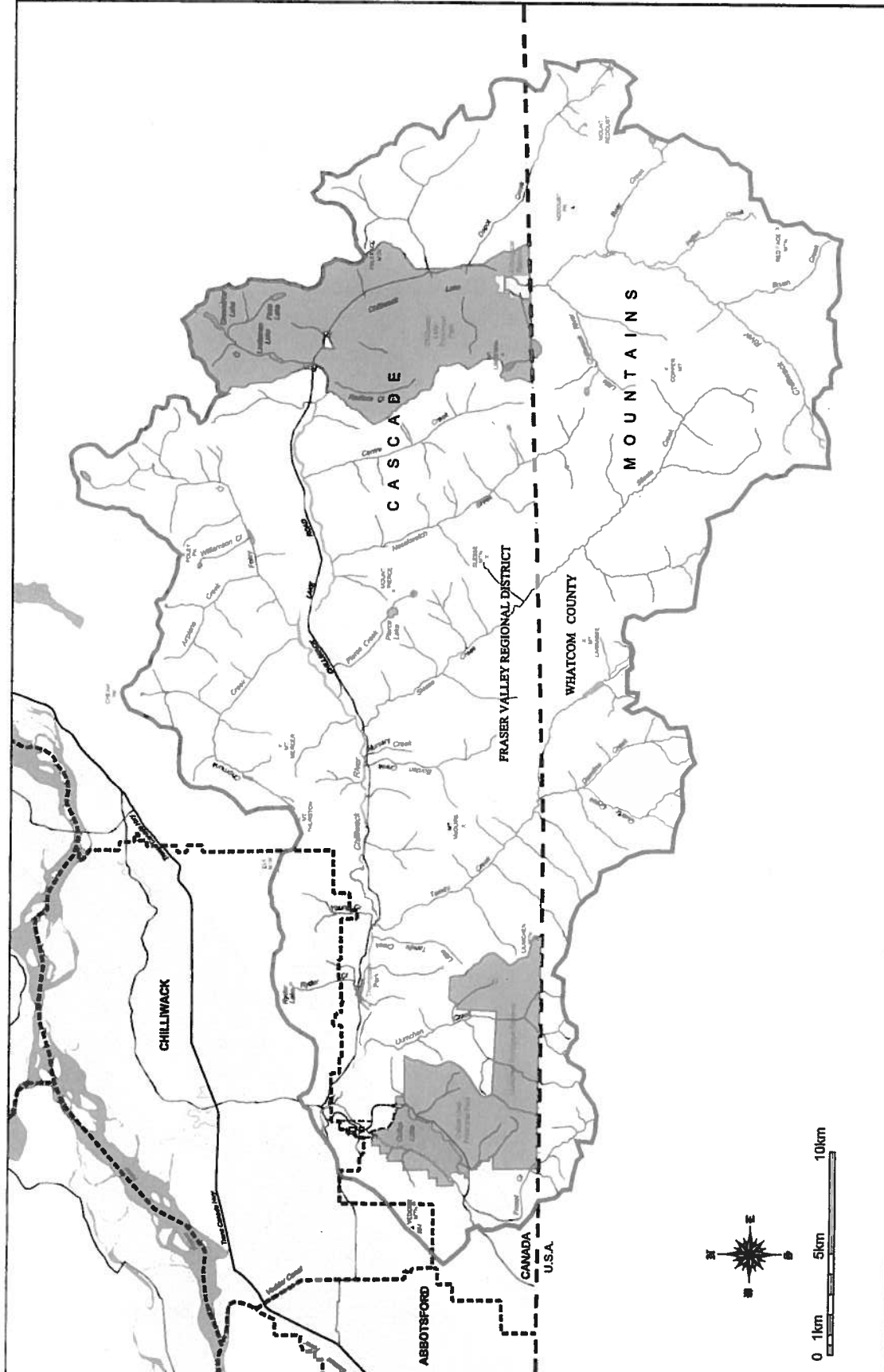
-  Watershed Boundary
-  Parish/Ecological Res.
-  ALR Boundary

Source: FVRD, DFO Canada, BC Gov. Mts of Water, Land & Air Protection, Integrated Mapping Technologies Ltd., Washington State University

Map prepared by: FVRD Planning Dept.

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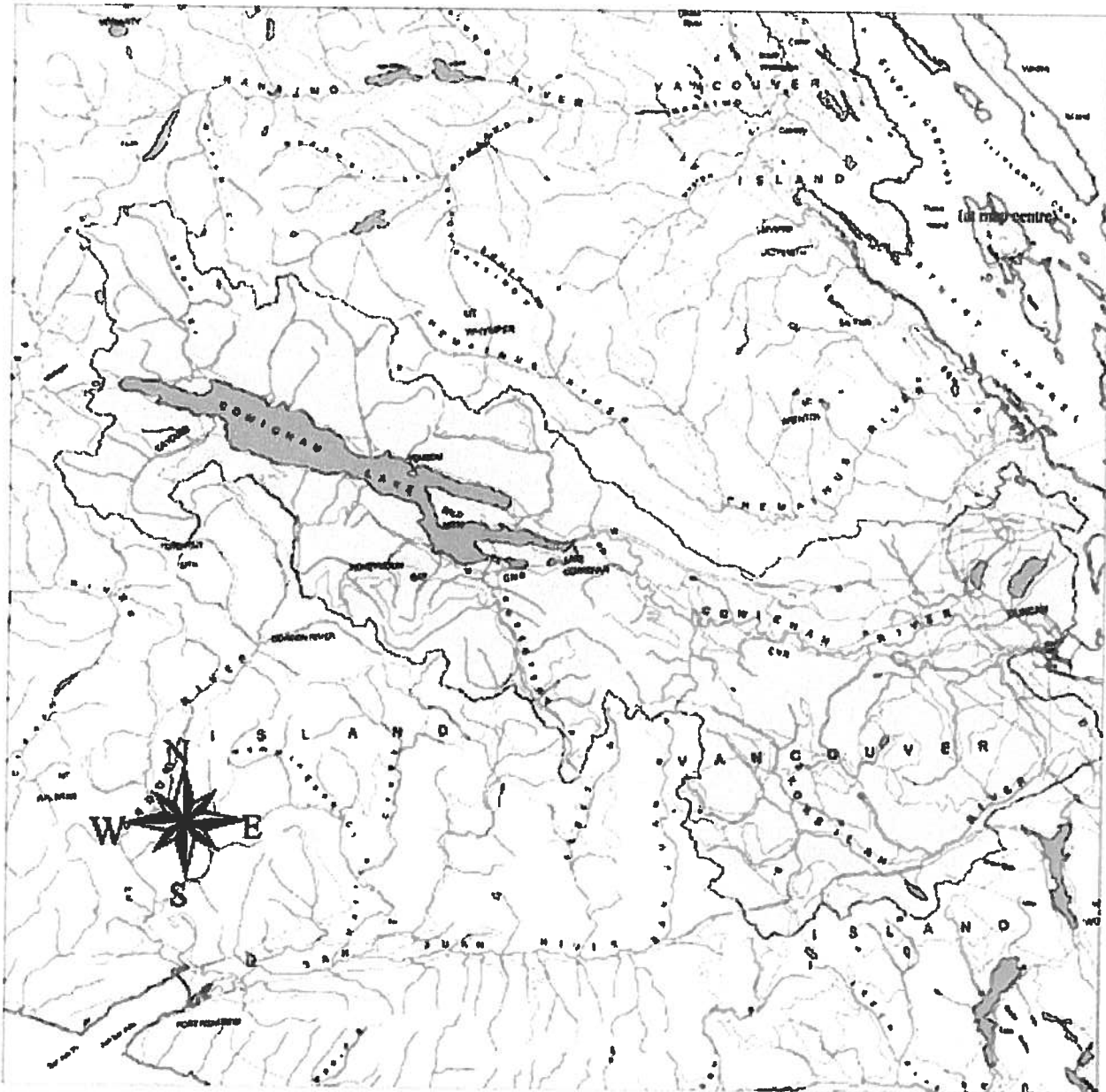
February 2006



## Cowichan Basin Stewardship Roundtable

Crisis:	The river dried up in 2003.
Start-up:	An Ad-hoc committee was formed in 2003; there was a recognition of specific underlying concerns; projects were identified and ranked. The three main issues were: Water Management, Fish Habitat Restoration, Stolz Bluffs Erosion.
Mature Form:	Established the Roundtable in 2005; a blend of technical and management as a working group; used different governance styles for different projects (water management plan is very structured)
How Does It Work:	The group meets each month; the chair rotates each 1/4 to a different organization; agenda and minutes are the purvue of the current chair; the venue is hosted by the Cowichan First Nations. Decisions are based on a 'working consensus'.
Style:	Informal, Open, Collaborative, Inclusive.
Staff.& Funding:	There is no budget, office, Board or paid staff. But there are currently 2 co-chairs who are assigned by their employers to this activity and local government has recently hired a Water Use Manager. Individual projects secure their own funding.
Annual Work Plan:	Yes; The major issues were identified very early on in the process.
Assets:	Oddly enough, none were specifically identified
Challenges:	Urbanization of the basin (3 municipalities, lakeside residents, sewage lagoons); Industry (forestry, pulp mill, agriculture, fishery); Recreation; Loss of salmon stocks, Land privately owned, Stolz Bluffs erosion all contribute to excessive demands on the water.
What do they want?	To obtain security of water flow and manage it for the good of all.
Guiding Principles:	Needs to be 'place-based'; need to recognize the dynamic changes underway in the basin.
What Broke the Ice?	Bus Tours
Who is not on Board?	Agriculture sector; Lakeside residents.
Watershed Label:	Urban.
Other:	First Nations were involved from the onset They authored a detailed restoration plan and gave it to the Roundtable to use as a 'Road Map'; Designated a 'BC Heritage River'; They also pulled back and/or opened dikes; 'Invest in principles, not projects'; 'Watershed Based- Basin Thinking'; 'Money follows Success'

# Cowichan River Watershed



NTS Text (1:250K)

5 0 5 Kilometers

NTS Transportation (1:250K)

1:430,000

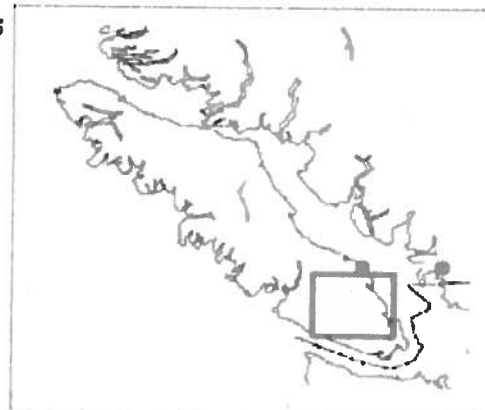
NTS Water Features (1:250K)

River/Stream - Definite

Coastline - Definite

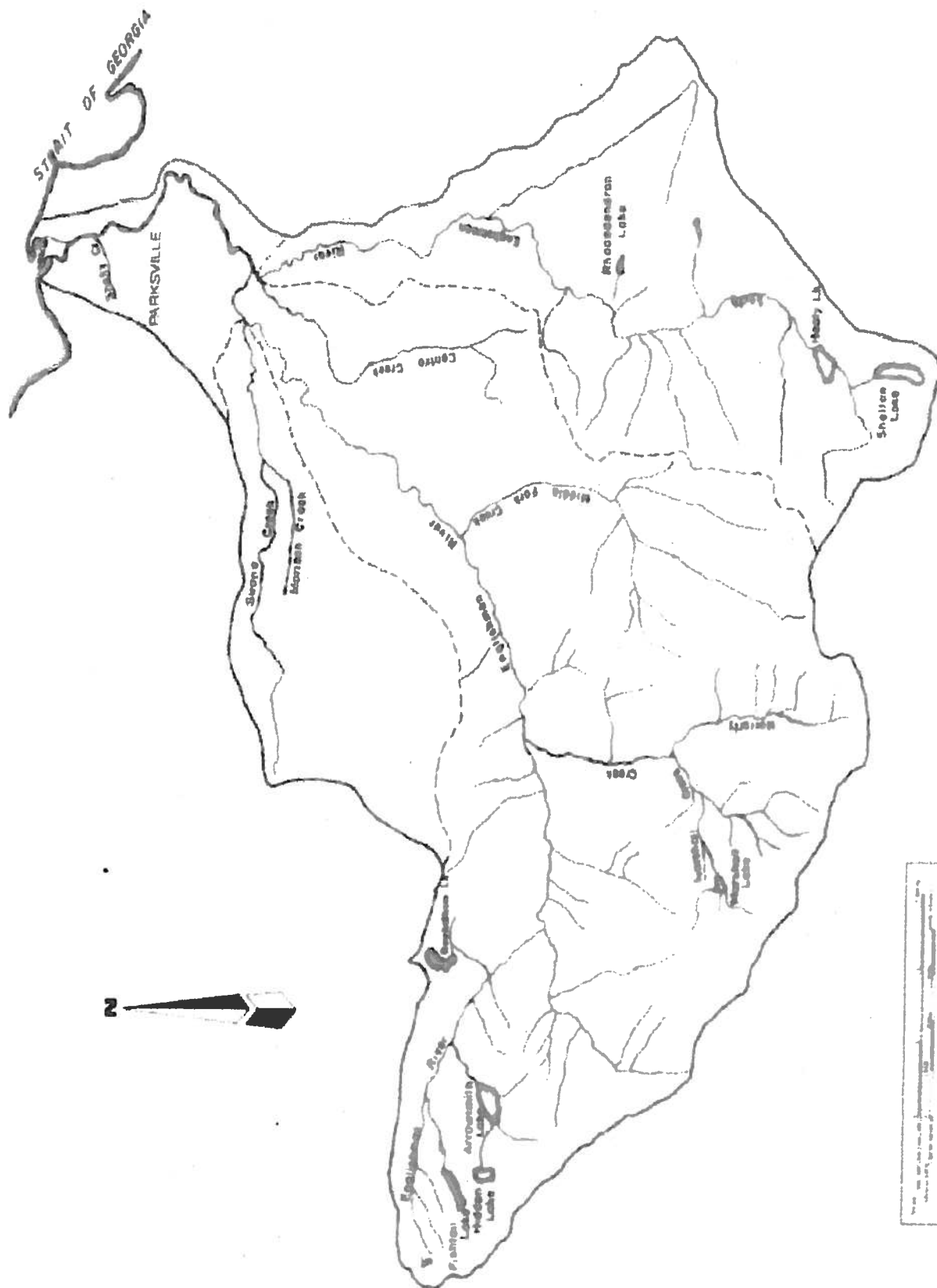
 Cowichan River Watershed

 Approximate Location of Anadromous Barrier



## Englishman River Watershed

- Crisis:** The river was ranked the 'most endangered river in BC'
- Start-up:** In 2001, the ERWS Recovery Plan was developed. A steering committee was initiated by Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MVIHES) with a local technical review, roundtable, public discussions.
- Mature Form:** MVIHES driven, from the top down; functions as a steering committee which co-ordinates projects.
- How does it work?** It meets several times a year and consists of government agencies and other high level officials. 2 paid professional staff of this organization train volunteers to do data collection, etc.
- Style:** Top-down
- Staff:** See above.
- Annual Work Plan:** It looks as if they identified 3 projects fairly early on; Fish Habitat Assessment along the river (2002), Groundwater Mapping (2004), Estuary Restoration 2007 & 2008. All ongoing.
- Assets:** Forests, lots of Water, Fish, Unique Estuary, Recreation, Hatchery(?), Community Involvement.
- Challenges:** Rate of growth and zoning changes threaten the source of water for Parksville; Lack of understanding of groundwater behavior & links to surface water; Flooding due to hugely varying flow rates, poor regulations, limited storage capacity in the small lakes of the headwaters; Erosion of clay banks along the river; Development & Recreation led to shoreline hardening of the estuary; Early agriculture and diking isolated the estuary; Entire watershed is privately owned by 2 forest companies.
- What do they want?** Take the river off the list.
- Guiding Principles:** Population of Coho and Steelhead are key indicators of success.
- What Broke the Ice?** MVIHES ?
- Who is not Here?** ?
- Label:** Industrial/Urban ? (80% of the watershed is forested or industrial, 20% are lower reaches i.e. urban)
- Other:** First Nations ? Land purchase & creation of ER Regional Park; Rainwater Park.; Did they remove dikes ?; Basin Thinking; Arrowsmith Dam ?

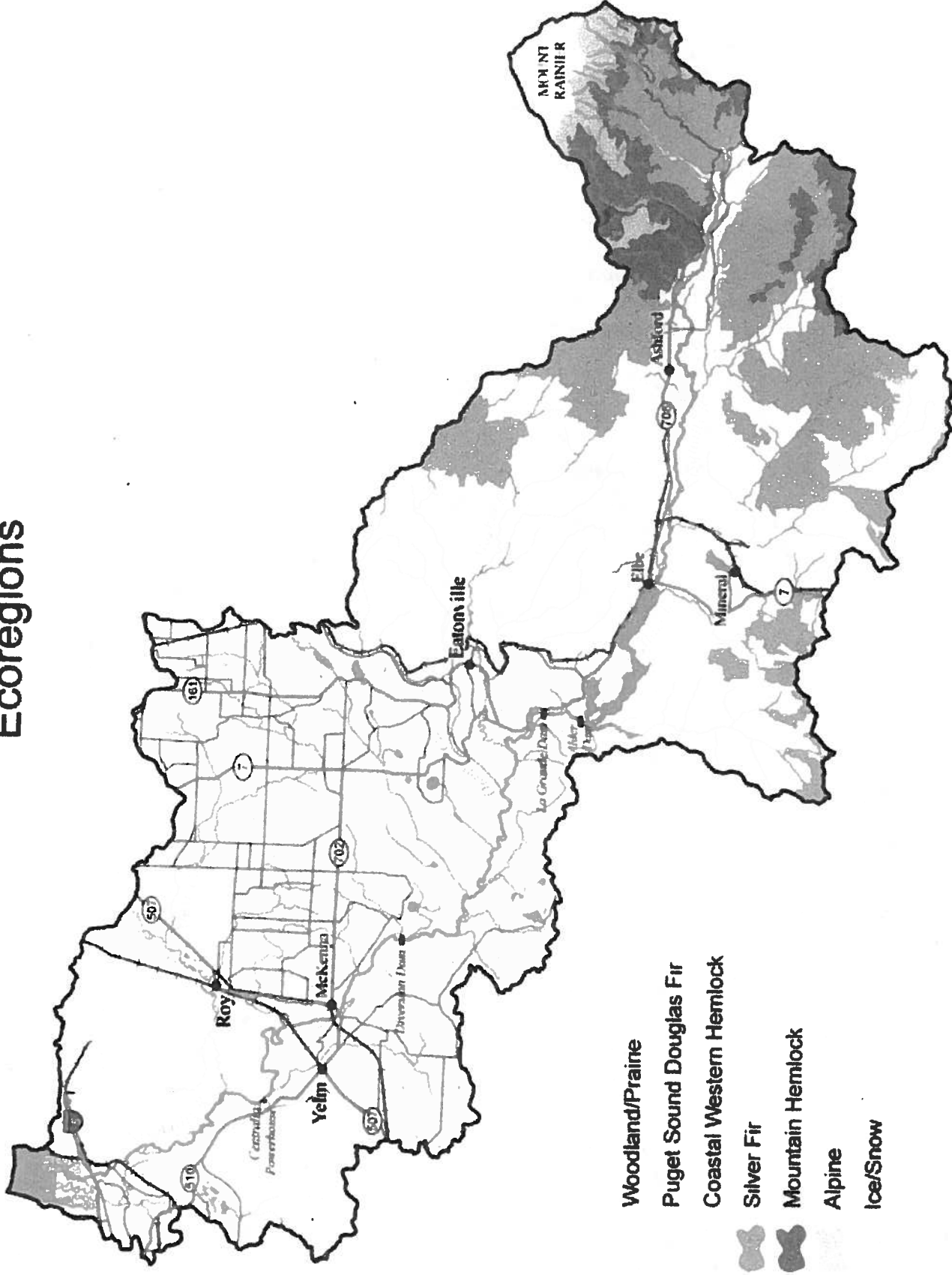


**Figure 3: Englishman River Drainage System**

## Nisqually River Council

- Crisis:** Legislative recognition of the river's priceless heritage.
- Start-up** The Supreme Court recognized the Nisqually Tribe in 1974; Washington State Legislature passed SHB 323 in 1985, which directed the Department of Ecology to develop a Nisqually River Management Plan (NRMP). A Task Force was formed and the resultant plan was adopted in 1987. The Nisqually River Council (NRC) was formed to implement this.
- Mature Form:** This is a formal top-down structure. Staff reports to the Board.
- How does it Work?** The Council is formed of government agency representatives plus the Nisqually Indian Tribe. There is a parallel body which consists of 4 advisory committees, the most senior being the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The Chair of CAC sits on the Executive of the Council while 3 other voting members sit on the Board. The other's have 1 vote each. The process is agency heavy.
- Style:** Formal but consensus based. They have a long history of governance changes and are an accepted part of the system
- Staff: & Funding:** Yes. Initially there was legislative funding. There is now a mix with 3 non-profits (2 foundations, 1 land trust) formed to assist in implementation of the plan. Current budget is \$ 1 million. 'Money Follows Success'
- Annual Work Plan:** Yes. Initially the Task Force identified 160 action items. CAC and the other advisory committees present their own work plans to the Board..
- Assets:** Attitude: The beautiful whole is greater than the sum of its wonderful parts.
- Challenges:** Hydro Power, Agriculture, Private Landowners, Forestry ( timber has come and gone), Gravel Mines, Fort Lewis (?).
- What do they want?** To shift focus from river health to a watershed based approach; plan for the next 15 years and develop a vision for 50 years.
- Guiding Principles:** Decision by consensus; Steward resources in perpetuity; Harmonious living
- What broke the ice?** Bus Tours.
- Who is not Here?** Agricultural Sector; Environmentalists (they wanted a hammer and we didn't want to be one).
- Label:** Rural. They are very specific about this.
- Other:** First Nations were involved from the outset; They purchased land and opened their dikes to restore the estuary. The presence of hatcheries has had very mixed results. An unusual project is the Low Impact Development & Architectural guidelines leading to LEED certification

# Ecoregions



Data Sources: Ecoregions - WDFW GAP Analysis NWMFC. Basedata - WA DOT, WA DOE

Cartography by: J.Cutler, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Figure 9. Ecoregions of the Nisqually watershed.

## Salmon River Watershed Roundtable

Crisis:	Discussion of the problems on the Salmon River brought forward by Neskonlith elder Mary Thomas and the subsequent realization that those problems were symptoms of larger issues due to human activities.
Start-up:	SRW Watershed Project began in 1991 with the establishment of SRW Roundtable (SRWR). In 1993 the Society was formed and <i>the Roundtable became the action arm of the society.</i>
Mature Form:	SRWR continues to meet (as what, when, where?); they have an executive (reporting to whom?) whose overarching responsibility is to move the roundtable forward towards the long term goals.
How Does it Work?	? (they have had lots of meetings)
Style:	Roundtable
Staff & Funding:	Staff?; They say their projects are a 'Magnet for Money' although the cyclical funding patterns are a problem.
Annual Work Plan:	Yes. Projects were identified early and are based on three levels of watershed-scale planning (CCME, WFSP, PSF); they are working incrementally towards the health of the river, with both short and long term goals (within 20-200 year perspective); they are nearly at the end of the first 20 years. They are time-based. They are very definite; they plan, carry out and monitor their projects. They focus primarily on restoration.
Assets:	Community awareness and participation
Challenges:	High irrigation needs, Declining fish stocks; High water temperatures; Bank erosion; Flooding; Drought; Pine Beetle (fire?)
What to they want?	The health of the river restored.
Guiding Principles:	Consensus & respect; Watershed perspective; Work plan; Incremental approach; No finger-pointing; Acceptance of local knowledge as well as scientific expertise.
Who/What broke the ice?	First Nations
Who is not on Board?	Ranchers now coming on board.
Label:	Rural ?
Other:	Great story; First Nations are up front; 'Move forward on projects while working out planning' (pick low hanging fruit !). Note: fish numbers are not yet improved but fish are using the new habitat.

**Figure 2**  
**Salmon River Watershed**  
**Ownership Status**  
**& Forest Harvest Areas**

