

Terms of Reference - Cowichan Stewardship Round Table (CSRT)

Background:

In the summer of 2003, an ad hoc committee formed to recommend annual flow management protocols on the Cowichan River. A recommendation by this committee resulted in the Cowichan Valley Regional District becoming the host sponsor of a Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan whose goal is to recommend long term water conservation objectives.

The Ad Hoc Committee also recognized that an alternative forum was required to discuss restoration, recovery and stewardship issues within the Cowichan Basin. Initial efforts established a community of interest and ranked and recommended the Pacific Salmon Treaty projects which were all successfully funded for 2005.

Purpose:

The Cowichan Stewardship Round Table (CSRT) establishes a forum to share information, identify communities of interest, rank projects at a watershed scale, pool resources, attract funders, and enable a new way of conducting stewardship business. It is interdisciplinary and ecosystem based, and blends a technical and management working group representing the community of interests that benefit from the CSRT. Membership is inclusive and is open to other organisations, private sector, and individuals who express interest in the process, can add value and build consensus.

Administration:

The Chair will rotate each 1/4 to each organization and venue will be hosted by the Cowichan Tribes at the Cowichan Tribes Council Chamber the 3rd Thursday of every month beginning April 21/05. An agenda will be solicited from members and draft agenda communicated by the Chair before the CSRT meets and subsequent minutes/action items will be subsequently distributed.

Objectives:

- Identify current or potential stewardship CSRT projects and develop an annual workplan.
- Review Recovery Plans, biological concerns and engage those strategies that interest the CSRT.
- Coordinate CSRT priority activities and provide media liaison.
- Secure, pool, and administer funds to support the CSRT business plan as requested.
- Communicate the CSRT work plan to the community and encourage partnerships.
- Develop and promote CSRT educational and in-service training.

Initiating CSB Round Table Partners:

- Cowichan Tribes
- NorskeCanada
- TimberWest
- Min. of Water, Land and Air Protection
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Cowichan Valley Naturalist Society
- Cowichan Community Land Trust Society
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Cowichan Valley Regional District
- BC Parks
- Sport Fish Advisory Board – S. Island
- Eco-tourism Sector

Links to Cowichan Watershed Resources

Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan backgrounders and documents

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/index.aspx?nid=779>

www.Waterbucket.ca

watercentric planning home – Cowichan Basin Water Plan

http://www.waterbucket.ca/wcp/?type=summary§ion=Cowichan_Basin_Water_Plan&sid=16

Water centric planning

Convening for action – on the ground changes

http://www.waterbucket.ca/cfa/?type=summary§ion=Vancouver_Island_-_2008&sid=13

Cowichan Valley Regional District Habitat Atlas

<http://www.shim.bc.ca/atlas/CVRD/Main.htm>

East Vancouver Island Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/sei/van_gulf/publications.html

Cowichan Water Management Information

http://www.catalystpaper.com/crofton_waterlevel_results

Sustainable Cowichan Plan

<http://www.12things.ca>

Sustainable Cowichan Background Resources

<http://www.12things.ca/12things/resources.php>

