

There are two proposals before Langley Township Council which are in the headwaters of West Creek.

1)project #14-05-0105 Location; 5500 Block of 268 Street through 276 Street

2)project #14-08-0055 Location27500 block of 60 Avenue.

The headwaters of West Creek form a Stanley Park-like setting in the Township of Langley where an upwelling of water produces a beautiful and biodiverse wetland. Metro Vancouver has designated this area as part of a Sensitive Ecosystem Area that should be protected and West Creek itself is a red-coded Salmon bearing stream. Video: [Aerial Survey of West Creek](#)

Stanley Park in Vancouver had salmon reintroduced into their water course; in West Creek the salmon have been here for generations and the streams and wetlands have a tremendous amount of “natural” Bio-diversity.

The Threat

There are only 90 areas left of the once designated 128 acre golf course zoned “Compensatory” lands per the DFO Permit requiring that Compensatory lands

“shall consist of a number of features” and are to “function as intended” and “remain in perpetuity”. These lands are now under threat of development.

All of the local environmental groups, including the Langley Field Naturalists are aware that this development would diminish the natural value of the West Creek wetlands, would certainly have a negative impact on the habitat for the Coho salmon and would be a huge loss to the community as a whole in light of the value of wetlands in mitigating the negative effects of climate change. Many communities in BC and around the world are actively involved in creating or reestablishing wetlands because of their critical value in carbon capture and acting as heat sinks!

Conclusion:

There is far more value both now and in the future in keeping this wetland undisturbed, not only for the salmon that spawn and thrive here, but for the health and well-being of the entire community.

More information at this blog: <https://west-creek-awareness.ca/2022/07/04/salmon-habitat-at-risk-from-industrial-development/>

WEST CREEK AWARENESS GROUP and WILD SALMON DEFENDERS ALLIANCE REQUEST THAT YOU PLEASE SIGN THE ATTACHED LETTER AND EMAIL IT TO MAYOR and COUNCIL and BEEDIE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Township of Langley Mayor and Council

mayorcouncil@tol.ca ewoodward@tol.ca

tbaillie@tol.ca sferguson@tol.ca mkunst@tol.ca bmartens@tol.ca mpratt@tol.ca krichter@tol.ca rrindt@tol.ca mvanpopta@tol.ca

Beedie Development Group adam.donnely@beedie.ca

The entire West Creek watershed is located on unceded Traditional Sto:lo Territory. The 1979 (and 1990) Gloucester OCP designated numerous parcels of land to be non-industrial use (park, golf course, compensatory habitat). The Indigenous lead Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance recommends that every level of government “take every conservation measure to protect the wetland”.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Permit #99-HPAC-PA-000-00217 and MELP File #A2004880 require that Compensatory lands “shall consist of a number of features” and are to “function as intended” and be “left undisturbed in perpetuity”. These compensatory lands are now under threat of development.

There are two proposals before Langley Township Council which are in the headwaters of West Creek:

- 1) project #14-05-0105 Location 5500 Block of 268 street through 276 street
- 2) project #14-08-0055 Location 27500 block of 60 Ave

The above noted development would diminish the natural value of the West Creek wetlands, would certainly have a negative impact on the habitat for the Coho salmon and would be a huge loss to the community as a whole, in light of the value of wetlands in mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

Many communities in BC, Indigenous lead groups (such as the Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance), local, national and global environmental groups are actively involved in creating or re-establishing wetlands because of their critical value in carbon capture and acting as heat sinks.

Therefore, it is imperative that the West Creek Headwater Wetland remain an undisturbed Compensatory Habitat within the Township of Langley, Metro Vancouver Regional District in perpetuity.

Sincerely,



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance (WSDA)

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WSDA Alliance Statement Regarding West Creek Headwaters

Instead of draining the wetlands for industrial development, every effort needs to be taken to protect wetlands from drying up, or being drained. Conservation and enhancement of the wetlands will go a long way to ensure that we give endangered salmon a chance to survive. The destruction of salmon habitats would result in pushing this keystone species further into extinction. This can and must be prevented.

Nutrients from riparian vegetation and catchment characteristics in the wetlands that control hydrology and thermal regimes play an important role in smolt production of coho and other salmon species. Wetlands provide coho with rich foraging opportunities where there are lots of insects for them to consume and grow big enough to continue their journey out to the ocean to continue their life cycle.

The Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance joins in the groundswell of voices urging federal, provincial and municipal authorities to take every conservation measure to protect the wetlands. This would not only sustain a valuable fish habitat, it would also help sustain wild life which also depend on the wetlands – ducks, beavers, deer, coyotes, eagles and many other species.

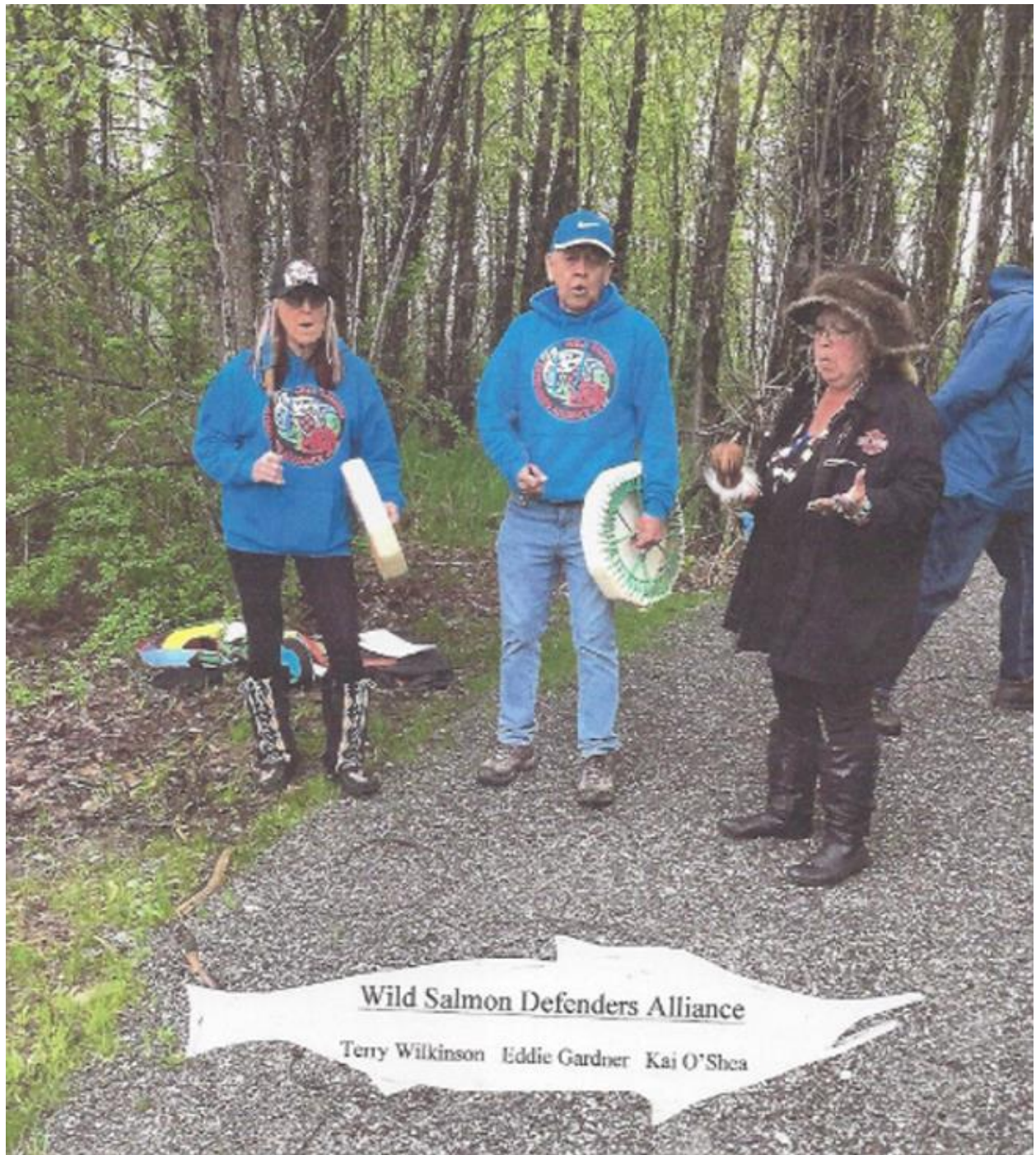
As Robert Schaefer, Community Advisor of the DFO so eloquently stated, "... West Creek, and its tributaries should be protected as much as possible in order to continue to provide suitable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, and also be protected to help maintain all the other biodiversity of life that utilizes the watershed."

Instead of destroying the wetlands, consideration must be given to attracting people to enjoy what Langley can offer in terms of restoring and protecting biodiversity, that in turn, helps curb climate change. Eco-tourism opportunities are real, and must be pursued as an alternative to adverse industrial development.

Eddie Gardner

President, Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance

Cell: 604-792-0867



Wild Salmon Defenders Alliance

Terry Wilkinson Eddie Gardner Kai O'Shea



Fisheries
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Pêches
et Océans

Pacific Region
100 Annacis Parkway, Unit 3
Delta, BC V3M 6A2

February 19, 2019

Subject: Salmon Habitat in West Creek Watershed

Dear Sir or Madam,

The West Creek watershed has historically been a productive coho, chinook, and chum salmon system, along with supporting cutthroat trout and steelhead populations and other finfish. Currently, juvenile and adult coho salmon are sighted in the area annually but in small numbers as confirmed by the Glen Valley Watersheds Society.

These coho are a natural (wild) stock, and natural salmon stocks from the many smaller streams and their tributaries in coastal BC are important contributors to the genetic diversity and overall wellbeing of salmon in BC.

Therefore, West Creek, its headwaters, and its tributaries should be protected as much as possible in order to continue to provide suitable spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, and also be protected to help maintain all the other diversity of life that utilizes the watershed.

The DFO supports the Glen Valley Watersheds Society and the Langley Environmental Partnerships Society in their restoration efforts in the West Creek watershed.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Schaefer
Community Advisor
South Fraser Area And Eastern Fraser Valley
Ecosystems Management Branch/Gestion des Écosystèmes Branche
Fisheries and Oceans Canada/Pêches et Océans du Canada
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