



Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment and Climate Change Canada
5421 Robertson Road
Delta, B.C., V4K 3N2

29 July 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Slokan Valley Wetland and Mapping Project (SWAMP): Invertebrate assessment component

The SWAMP: Wetland Invertebrate Assessment Tool will be used as a basis to prioritize wetlands in the Slokan Valley for restoration and conservation. This project aligns with the third objective of Environment Canada's National Wetland Conservation Fund (NWCF), which is to "scientifically assess and monitor wetland functions and ecological goods and services in order to further the restoration of lost wetlands and enhancement of existing degraded wetlands."

SWAMP has taken a scientific approach to develop a framework to identify and prioritize sensitive wetlands for restoration and protection throughout the Slokan Valley watershed. The SWAMP: Wetland Invertebrate Assessment Tool project led by Darcie Quamme of Integrated Ecological Research uses modified protocols under Environment and Climate Change Canada's CABIN program (Canada Aquatic Biomonitoring Network). The project will help to rate the biotic integrity of other wetlands in the valley and establish reference conditions for restoration goals. As well, this work will provide quantitative measures of wetland condition to prioritize wetlands in a scientific-based method to inform regional planning. As the methods become more developed, these methods may be used more broadly.

In 2015-2016, supported in part by the NWCF, SWAMP developed good partnerships and demonstrated that they can successfully raise matching funds, exceeding the NWCF's 1:1 matching requirement. SWAMP met NWCF criteria in the administration of these funds and continues to help encourage stewardship and raise awareness of the Slocan Valley wetlands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivy Whitehorne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ivy Whitehorne
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