Fraser River Fisheries Habitat Restoration Using an Alternate Approach


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Introduction

The Fraser River at Mission, BC is a major salmonid migratory pathway and source of freshwater habitat. The river flows through an area rich in natural salmonid habitat and is an important source of salmon and steelhead in the British Columbia fishery. The river is also an important recreation area for local residents. Over the past several decades, the Fraser River has experienced significant degradation due to industrial and agricultural activities. These activities have resulted in lowered water quality, increased sedimentation and loss of habitat. As a result, there has been a decline in the population of salmonids in the Fraser River. The Fraser River at Mission, BC is one of the most important salmonid habitats in the province and the restoration of this habitat is critical to the recovery of salmonids in the Fraser River.

The project is designed to address the degradation of the Fraser River habitat by implementing measures to improve water quality, reduce sedimentation, and enhance habitat. These measures include the implementation of BMPs (Best Management Practices) to reduce sedimentation, the construction of fish passage structures to improve access for salmonids, and the implementation of habitat enhancement projects to improve the quality of the habitat. The project is funded by the provincial government and is being implemented by the Fraser River Watershed Project, a collaboration between the provincial government, local municipalities, and indigenous communities.

The project is expected to provide significant benefits to the salmonid population in the Fraser River, including increased recruitment, improved survival, and increased productivity. These benefits are likely to be achieved through the implementation of effective BMPs, the construction of fish passage structures, and the implementation of habitat enhancement projects. The project is expected to be completed in 2024.

Methodology

1. **Data Collection and Analysis**: The project team collected and analyzed data on the current condition of the Fraser River habitat, including water quality, sedimentation, and habitat quality. This data was used to identify the areas of greatest need and to develop strategies for habitat enhancement.

2. **Habitat Enhancement Projects**: The project team developed a series of habitat enhancement projects to improve the quality of the habitat. These projects included the construction of fish passage structures, the implementation of BMPs to reduce sedimentation, and the planting of riparian vegetation.

3. **Monitoring and Evaluation**: The project team will monitor the effectiveness of the habitat enhancement projects and report on their results. This will help to ensure that the project is achieving its objectives and that any problems are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

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