

Kispiox-Cranberry TSA Expert Water Panel
Terms of Reference
June 24, 2003

Section 14 of the Operational and Site Planning Regulation requires a watershed assessment to be completed for:

- (a) community watersheds,
- (b) watersheds with significant downstream fisheries values, watersheds with licensed domestic water users and significant watershed sensitivity, and
- (c) other watersheds for which the **district manager** determines an assessment is necessary.

The intent of watershed assessments is to ensure that past and future development doesn't result in loss of watershed integrity, as evidenced by abnormal change in watershed processes (e.g. stream channel changes, increased landslide events).

An expert panel comprised of MOF, DFO, Gitanyow, Gitxsan Watershed Authority and WLAP representatives will review all watersheds within the Kispiox and Cranberry TSAs and identify those meeting the above criteria. From this list, the need for an watershed assessment (WAP) will be determined based on their analysis of:

- Implications of previous development to watershed integrity,
- Significant/Conspicuous fisheries values,
- Presence of sensitive hydrologic features (e.g. lakes, wetlands, mountains),
- Terrestrial sediment input hazard, based on expert knowledge and available terrain stability/sediment transport capability mapping
- Other key attributes including
 - significant agricultural development,
 - presence of endangered or listed fish populations (e.g. bull trout, Kitwanga sockeye),
 - fish production capability,
 - current protection through LRMP zones,
 - domestic water use,
 - existing stream conditions as evidenced by IBI scores or other metrics.

The panel will develop a strategic plan that includes the following elements:

- A map showing appropriate watershed groupings (i.e. watershed sub-basins) for assessment
 - Appropriate focus for future watershed assessment for each sub-basin (i.e. Temperature, channel stability, erosion in consideration of historical analyses completed for that area and intensity of development, OR
 - *A WAP maybe used to focus requirements for results-based watershed objectives (i.e. rehabilitation measures such as road and stream crossing deactivation/rehabilitation, upslope restoration works, etc.)*
 - "Triggers" to WAP, considering factors that may include (but are not limited to):
 - equivalent clear-cut area (ECA),
 - watershed "peak flow" index,
 - road density (km of road per km² of total watershed area), and
 - stream crossing density (number of crossings per km² of watershed area).
 - Direction for collection of baseline information, for presently undeveloped watersheds that are proposed for development.
-

Kispiox Expert Water Panel membership:

Allen Gottesfeld, Gitxsan Watershed Authority

Kenny Rabnett, Gitxsan Watershed Authority

Dave Wilford, MoF, Northern Interior Forest Region

Tom Pendray DFO, Smithers

Pete Woloshyn, DFO - Hazelton; alternate: James D'Andrea

Ian Sharpe, Water, Land, and Air Protection

Darren Fillier, Water Land Air Protection - Environmental Protection;
alternate: Steve Gordon

Tony Morgan, Gitanyow Fisheries Authority

Mark Cleveland - Gitanyow Fisheries Authority

Glen Buhr - MoF Skeena Stikine Forest District (analysis/technical
lead, Level 1 IWAP creation)

Bob Mitchell MoF Skeena Stikine Forest District (District lead)