|  |
| --- |
| Project Title \* |

Short description

Long description

The primary objective of this project is to identify and prioritize fish passage barriers within these study areas, develop comprehensive restoration plans to address these barriers, and foster momentum for broader ecosystem restoration initiatives. While the primary focus is on fish passage, this work also serves as a lens through which to view the broader ecosystems, leveraging efforts to build capacity for ecosystem restoration and improving our understanding of watershed health. We recognize that the health of life - such as our own - and the health of our surroundings are interconnected, with our overall well-being dependent on the health of our environment.

Although the main purpose of this report is to document 2023 field work data and results, it also builds on reporting from field activities conducted from 2020 to 2022. In addition to the numerous assessments at sites undocumented in past years of the project, field activities were also conducted at 10 sites where habitat confirmations were previously documented. When this occurred, past reports for these sites edited and updated with 2023 data.

Bulkley River and Morice River Watershed Groups Fish Passage Restoration Planning (2020)

Bulkley River and Morice River Watershed Groups Fish Passage Restoration Planning 2021

Bulkley River Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Planning 2022

Skeena Watershed Fish Passage Restoration Planning 2022

Please note that at the time of reporting, this report was a living document - changing over time. Version numbers are logged for each release with modifications, enhancements and other changes tracked with the “Changelog” section. Additionally, issues and planned enhancements are tracked here.

Fish Passage Assessments were completed at 53 sites in 2023. Although the focus of Fish Passage Assessment sites in 2023 was within areas adjacent to the Skeena River from Hazelton to Terrace (Kispiox River and Kitsumkalum River watershed groups), numerous sites were also assessed throughout other areas of the Kispiox, Zymoetz, Bulkley and Morice River watershed groups.

During 2023 field assessments, habitat confirmation assessments were conducted at seven sites in the Morice River and Zymoetz River watershed groups. A total of approximately 9km of stream was assessed, fish sampling utilizing electrofishing surveys were conducted at four of the subject habitat confirmation streams. Fish sampling was conducted at 49 sites within 10 streams a total of 416 fish captured. At all electrofishing sites, salmonids with fork lengths >60mm were tagged with PIT tags to facitate the tracking of health and movement over time.

Culverts previously located on a tributary to Skeena River - PSCIS 198217 - Sik-E-Dakh Water Tower Road were replaced with the crossing with a clear-span bridge in 2024 with funding acquired by and remediation work led by the Gitskan Watershed Authorities in partnership with the Skeena Fisheries Commission.

Ten sites where habitat confirmations were conducted in the first three years of this program (2020 - 2022) were revisited in 2023 to gather data to further inform prioritization and/or to provide data for effectiveness monitoring. Additional work primarily included fish sampling, PIT tagging and aquisition of aerial imagery using remotely piloted aircraft.

 it all lives here <https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_peace_2023_reporting> with the interactive version of the report served here <https://newgraphenvironment.github.io/fish_passage_peace_2023_reporting/>

pdf versions live in the "docs" directory which is here <https://github.com/NewGraphEnvironment/fish_passage_peace_2023_reporting/tree/main/docs>