Christian Carson

REM 660

One Step

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| **Key Terms** | **Definition** |
| Secwepemc | The larger Interior Salish nation to which we Simpcwemc belong |
| Simpcwemc | The people of Simpcwul’ecw |
| Simpcw [seempkw] | Simpcw First Nation, the political body representing the Simpcwemc membership |
| Simpcwul’ecw [seempk-ol-okw] | Simpcw First Nation Traditional Territory |
| Simpcw⁷etkwe | The river of Simpcwemc |
| Secwepemctsín | The Salishan language shared, with regional variations, among all Secwepemc peoples, of which Simpcwemc are one. |

Table 1. Key Secwepemctsín terms used throughout this work. Derived from [100972E.pdf (iaac-aeic.gc.ca)](https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p61898/100972E.pdf)

Positionality Statement:

My name is Christian Carson. I am a male, cis-gendered, white settler who grew up on the stolen lands of the Timpanogos, Newe Sogobia (Eastern Shoshone), and Núu-agha-tʉvʉ-pʉ̱ (Ute), in so-called Utah. I was born into a Western worldview, and as such, I am biased toward Western-produced knowledge over other ways of knowing. My master’s thesis, which comes from the lenses of Western science, aims to investigate the influence of headwater logging on downstream temperature changes relevant to Pacific salmon in the Thompson River Watershed, the largest tributary of the Fraser River. The North Thompson is situated in the traditional and unceded territory of the Simpcwul’ecw (Simpcw) First Nation and aptly named “Simpcw7etkwe”, or the ‘the river of Simpcwemc,’ in their native language, Secwepemctsín (cite) Table 1. In taking the first steps towards my thesis research, I attempt to characterize how the Simpcw First Nation structures their governance, establishes policy, and exerts sovereignty over their landscape, specifically in the context of natural resources. Notably, no external characterization of the Simpcw First Nation’s governance structure, policies, sovereignty, and the Simpcwemc worldviews that underlie them would adequately define them, as these are best described in the terms of the Simpcwemc. As such, I acknowledge that my approach will be flawed, as it is both external and comes with entrenched Western perspectives that differ significantly from indigenous ways of knowing and limit my perception of them. Considering these differences, I use concepts and methodologies identified by Indigenous scholars to work respectfully with the Indigenous knowledge of the Simpcw First Nation. Namely, I follow recommendations and resources from Dr. Sara Cannon (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lP76Bbo9Ma8SJ5DI12YNd0UKG2\_V4UnA0ugp6uLYzeg/edit)

The Simpcwemc are the original and sole proprietors of the “Simpcwul’ecw,” [simpkol-okw], territory, where they have maintained places, landscapes, histories, and heritage since time immemorial (The Memorial to Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Chiefs of the Shuswap, Okanagan and Couteau Tribes 1910). The Simpcwemc originally belonged to 32 distinct Secwepmec (Shuswap) bands that once occupied the Interior Plateau of so-called British Columbia before 15 of these bands were either lost or absorbed into other nations due to the impacts of colonialism during the 19th and 20th centuries ([Secwepemc Governance 4 Pillars Overview - Secwepemc Strong -](https://secwepemcstrong.com/secwepemc-governance-4-pillars-overview/)). Today, Simpcwc represents one of 17 member bands of the Secwepemc Nation. The Simpcwc, as a band, shares many cultural practices and doctrines that of the other Secwepemc bands. Still, there are many regional and sub-group differences within and among Secwepemc bands that allow for independent and autonomous land stewardship. The Simpcwemc people represent a large diversity of geographies, ecologies, and resources, which aligns with the enormous diversity in the Simpcwul'ecw landscape that the Simpcwemc steward.

Simpcwul'ecw is one of the largest Secwepemc territories, with marked geologic and ecological diversity. The Simpcwul'ecw territory occupies around 5 million hectares of the south-central interior of British Columbia (The n). This territory spans from its Northern reaches of the Robson Valley, then to the East along the Rocky Mountains to Jasper, then throughout the Columbia River valley due Southwest, and finally, its Southern boundary near Mclure on the North Thompson River. The biogeoclimatic zones of the Simpcwul’ecw territory range from the Alpine Tundra zone at the highest elevations above 1700m to 2300m, is treeless and maintains cold winters and short growing seasons, to the Interior Cedar-Hemlock zone between around 400m to 1000m, which is mainly cool, wet, and forest dominated ([2023-09-05\_simpcw\_interim\_stewardship\_plan\_(005).pdf](file:///C:\Users\cmc50\Downloads\2023-09-05_simpcw_interim_stewardship_plan_(005).pdf)). The complexity and richness across the Simpcwul'ecw support significant biodiversity, which in turn bolsters the Simpcwemc people, not only for their usefulness in subsistence and medicine but as prominent teachers in Simpcw stories and relatives 100972E.pdf (iM.

Simpcwc Laws and Principals

Simpcwc Historic Governance Structure

Simpcwc Modern Governance Structure   
Governance Structure & Sovereignty. Through web research, examine the governance structure of a First Nation or other Indigenous organization that works in your field of study or home.

How does decision-making happen?

How are elected vs. hereditary systems incorporated?

Who holds key portfolios on lands/waters/environment?

What are potential overlapping territories and other challenges with sovereignty?

Local Policy Context. Research and summarize contemporary court cases and political topics relevant to a First Nation or other Indigenous organization in your landscape. Write a summary that includes up to 5 references (news releases OK). ~1 page. 5.