Christian Carson

REM 660

One Step

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. 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)

Background of Simpcwul’ecwn and the Simpcwc First Nation

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 immemorial. The

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

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? Who holds key portfolios on lands/waters/environment? How are elected vs. hereditary systems incorporated? What are potential overlapping territories and other challenges with sovereignty? Write a 0.5 page synthesis paragraph plus, if possible, a diagram that you create of the governance system.