

**Project update: Nicola Fish Water Management Tool**

I am pleased to announce that the Province is providing funding for Phase 2B of the NFWMT. This will conclude the development of the tool and will be complete in spring 2017. A technical project kick-off meeting will be held in early October. *If you are a member of the technical committee, please stay tuned for more information.*

**Project update: Thermal Refuge Mapping**

Tom Willms is getting set to begin work on the thermal refuge habitat project for fish in the Nicola and Coldwater Rivers. FBC is working with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to collect aerial thermal imagery of segments of these streams in order to identify important groundwater/surface water upwelling and mixing zones. This imagery will be compiled and processed for use in mapping applications and Geographic Information Systems. It is hoped that the collected thermal data will support future research regarding the complex interactions between surface water, groundwater and fish in the Nicola Valley, and will help support local decision making with respect to fish habitat, surface water and groundwater resources.

A field crew including an experienced drone operator from TRU as well as Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) faculty member, Tom Willms, are planning on starting field data collection by late August, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Tom by phone at (250) 378-3328 or by email at [twillms@nvit.bc.ca](mailto:twillms@nvit.bc.ca).

**Funding update: Lower Nicola Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM)**

I am working on finding matching funds for Habitat Stewardship Program funding already received. Ideally I will have the matching funding in place very soon and will move forward with developing a request for proposals; work will ideally take place this fall.

**Funding update: General**

I continue to work on funding development for projects and planning in the Nicola watershed. If there is a funding opportunity or partnership that you feel would benefit the work being done in the Nicola please contact Tracy Thomas at the coordinates below.

**Nicola Research Collaborative**

There will be a research collaborative workshop held in the fall. – *If you are a member of the technical/research committee, please stay tuned for more information regarding the workshop.*

**Planning & Coordination**

Planning across all project/subject areas will resume this fall. – *If you are a member of the technical/research/planning committee, please stay tuned for more information regarding upcoming meetings.*

**Communication**

I will continue to provide updates directly to committee members as well as posting updates on the Nicola webpage [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca)

Please contact me with any questions,

Tracy

*\*let me know if you no longer wish to receive Nicola updates*

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