



CARCROSS/TAGISH FIRST NATION
Department of Heritage and Natural Resources
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Report:

Youth Mentoring Program for Environment, Ecology and Climate Change Adaptation

Background

The main purpose of the Youth Mentoring Program for Environment, Ecology and Climate Change Adaptation (YMP) was to protect fish and wildlife populations and their habitat located in the Southern Lakes area while to provide mentoring and educational opportunities to youth.

Participants worked with Environmental and Ecological Monitors and Elders to gain knowledge and experience about CTFN Settlement Land, the CTFN Final Agreement and practical skills. Participants also obtained certifications in conducting field work. The project was an extension of the ongoing field work of CTFN's Environmental and Ecological Monitors.

The project was run over the 2011 spring and summer season with the following key outcomes achieved;

Education: Monitors and Youth were present on the land and in the community to educate and create understanding of some of the key issues facing wildlife populations in the Traditional Territory. The Caribou Recovery Program was as it has been for the past 20 years a key focus with participants, monitoring populations and communicating to all stakeholders the issues of disturbance, and the voluntary hunting closure. Moose are another key issue for CTFN, participants again monitored populations, communicated the need for conservation and assisted in mitigating highway mortality through education and communication with residents and tourists alike.

Presence: Monitors and Youth maintained a presence on the land and in the community to monitor human activity, wildlife and wildlife habitat. Patrols were conducted daily over the duration of the program.

Inventory: Youth and Monitors completed daily wildlife and patrol logs, adding invaluable information and data to CTFNs' ongoing monitoring data. Species monitored rigorously were, Moose, Caribou, Bear (Grizzly, Black) and Sheep however everything sighted and observed was recorded.

Capacity: The number of monitors we employ is increasing as we progress and this program assisted in building much needed community capacity as well as interest from youth in pursuing and career in wildlife monitoring, biology and management.

CTFN continues to work collaboratively with biologists, conservation officers and elders to combine science and traditional knowledge to meet Ch 16 UFA objectives and this program was no exception. Youth and Monitors worked closely with all of the above noted professionals and developed relationships connections and essential employment skills to further their employability in the field of Wildlife Management and Monitoring.

The success of this program has enabled CTFN to secure two fulltime permanent positions in the Monitoring section of HLNR. The Field Operations Coordinator and Field Operations Assistant will, this season deliver the Monitoring program through the Dept. of Heritage Lands and Natural Resources. These fulltime positions are invaluable to the efficient and safe operation of the Monitoring program.

Task Outline

Task Description	Outcome	Complete
Project Management and supervision	Efficient project implementation and administration	Yes
Operations and Field supervision	Safe and reliable implementation of patrolling duties	Yes
Preparing and providing Youth Training Opportunities	Further train Monitors and Youth in: First Aid, ATV Operation, PAL, BOAT, Field Note Taking, GPS and Compass, Environmental Assessment and Monitoring, Traditional Knowledge, UFA	Yes (all Youth and Elder Monitors were trained, in hard skills and Youth were trained in TK and UFA by Elders)
Data Management	Develop database and manage wildlife data	Yes (working is ongoing)

Budget

Project Expenses				
Item	Total Projected Cost	Actual	CTFN	Enhancement Trust
Wages, Contract Services				
Natural Resources Manager	2809.56	2809.56	2809.56	
Environmental and Ecological Monitor	4327.34	4327.34	4327.34	
Environmental and Ecological Monitor Trainee	6935.04	6935.04	6935.04	
Elder 1	2633.06	2633.06		2633.06
Elder 2	2633.06	2633.06		2633.06
Youth 1	2268	2268		2268
Youth 2	1176	1176		2268
Lands Manager	1142.4	1142.4	1142.4	
GIS and lands Technician				
Office and Admin				
Telephone, Printing, Postage	750	750	750	
Travel				
Accomodation, Food, Travel	2800	2800	2800	
Materials and supplies				
Office Supplies	250	250	250	
Equipment and Machinery				

Patrolling Gear	1400	1400	1400	
Monitor Facilities	900	900	900	
Office Space	750	750	750	
Totals	32292.47	32292.47	22064.34	9802.13
				10% outstanding 980.21

Youth Mentoring Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 28 - 3 April				Team Meeting, Planning and Orientation	CTFN Modules and Patrol/Signage	Patrol	Kevin to work on Modules, Safety and Equip
April 4 -10	Safety and Equip. Module	Patrol/Signage	Patrol and Practical Work on Modules	Staff Meeting	Land Use Team Meeting	Cabins and Creeks (GPS)/Reports Due	Kevin work on Water Modules
April 11 - 17	Water Module	Patrol/Community	Patrol	Patrol/TK Training	holiday	holiday	holiday
April 18 - 24	Choutla Creek Work and Black Ground Squirrel Count	Patrol, Settlnent Land Signs	Patrol, CTFN Land Selections, UFA Training	Patrol/ TK	Patrol/ TK	Filing Paperwork: re Monitoring sheets and reporting	Kevin work on Fish and Wildlife Modules
April 25 - 29	Environemntal Assessment Training	Patrol Lakes	Patrol Lakes	Patrol Lakes	Patrol Lakes	Patrol Lakes/Reports Due	Note Taking Training

May 2 - 6	Fish and Wildlife Module	Patrol, UFA Training	Patrol Mines	Patrol Mines	Patrol Mines	GPS/Map and Compass/ Reports Due	off
May 9 - 13	Patrol Roads and Trails	Patrol Roads and Trails	Patrol Roads and Trails	Patrol Roads and Trails	Patrol Roads and Trails	Homework Day/Reports Due	Kevin Last Day
May 16 - 20	Patrol/TK	Water Quality Sampling Training	YSI Meter	Wilderness First Aid	Wilderness First Aid	Wilderness First Aid	Wilderness First Aid/ Last Day/Final Reports Due

Summary

In summary, the Youth Mentoring Program was a wonderful success. Michelle James, one of the Youth participating in the program went on through the rest of the season working with Trans Canada Pipeline as an Archaeology/Environmental Technician. She noted that she would not have had the skills or training to work in the field she loves without this program. Her wishes are to see that this program and others like it continue to be offered through CTFN and thanks the Enhancement Trust for making it possible.

Roland Parsons has gone on to work as an Environmental Technician for the Tulsequa Chief Mine and credits his time in the program for enabling him to obtain meaningful fulltime permanent employment. He commented that he not only learned hard monitoring skills but also developed work ethic and a respect for the land from the Elders and other professionals he worked with.

Corey Edzerza is pursuing higher education through the Yukon Colleges Renewable Resources program and is excited to be reunited with the team upon completion of his program. He wishes to help foster a conservation ethic and carry on his valuable work for CTFN.

CTFN is grateful to the Enhancement Trust for the support in offering this program and looks forward to continuing to build the Monitoring Program for the conservation, education and protection of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's natural resources.