

Crow Flats Stewardship Enhancement Project

Final Report 2017-18

Activities

The Crow Flats Stewardship Enhancement Project was conducted in June 2017 with the following goals:

1. *Conduct experiential trip to Crow Flats,*
2. *Train Vuntut Gwitchin in their role as environmental stewards, and*
3. *Present Results to the community.*

This project was successful and well supported by the community. Three boats travelled the Crow River in June 2017. Ten community members participated with three Elders and seven young people (aged 20-40). The group met prior to the trip to plan, gather information and review equipment. Traveling the Crow River took place between Saturday June 3rd and Wednesday June 9th, 2017. The crew camped at the mouth of the Blackfox River and above Timber Creek, returning to camp at Blackfox on the way back. Day trips were taken to walk inland to participant Elder John Joseph Kaye's spring camp where interviews were conducted with all participants, to Peterson's cabin up the Blackfox Creek and stopping at all the Gwich'in place name signs to cut brush and establish any missing signs. This method was effective in providing familiarity with the Crow Flats area, the family use areas and the place names. Interviews conducted with participants were open but also including the following questions: Why is Crow Flats important to you and your family? What needs to be done to take care of Crow Flats?

After returning to Old Crow the photos, log book information and interviews were detailed in a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation was shown to the community at a traditional Crow Flat breakfast (at supper time) at a packed Community Hall. 48 people attended the presentation. Feedback was positive and, as was supported by the participants in their interviews, there is major support for continuing with Crow Flats stewardship projects that emphasize the importance of stewardship of this area. The PowerPoint presentation including quotes from interviews and logbook are included with this report.

Protection and Enhancement Results:

- i. protect fish and wildlife populations or their habitat in the Yukon*
This project increased the aptitude and ability of young Vuntut Gwitchin stewards to participate in activities that will protect the fish and wildlife populations and their habitat in the Old Crow Flats.
- ii. enhance fish and wildlife populations or their habitat in the Yukon*
This project resulted in the collection of observations, data and experiences that allow young people to participate more fully in enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and their habitat in the Old Crow Flats.

Communications

The project was presented to the community of Old Crow at a Crow Flats “breakfast” supper at the Community Hall. 48 people attended and feedback was overwhelmingly positive from participants and community members. YFWET was recognized in the presentation.

Included with this report are the community posting and the PowerPoint presentation with photos.

Financials

Please see included financial statement and notes.