

FINAL REPORT

Date:	February 16, 2026
To:	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust
From:	Naomi Butterfield, Yukon Seed & Restoration
Subject:	Final Report

1 INTRODUCTION

Yukon Seed & Restoration (YSR) is pleased to provide this completion report to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust (YFWET), summarising the work completed throughout 2025 for the Haggart Creek Slope Restoration project in the Et'ó Nyäk Tagé (South McQuesten) valley. This report addresses the reporting requirements outlined in the Contribution Agreement 2024-25-13.

This project was made possible through funding from multiple partners. YFWET contributions were specifically directed towards procuring non-live erosion control materials, which are critical for slope stabilisation and reducing sedimentation of Haggart Creek, a vital fish habitat, during the establishment of live vegetation cover.

2 PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Activities Completed

The planning phase of the Haggart Creek Slope Restoration Project began in fall 2024 with an initial site visit, where the need for additional erosion control materials was identified. As federal 2BT funding, a key funding source for the restoration project, was not applicable to non-tree materials, an application to YFWET was submitted to address this gap.

Once YFWET funding was confirmed (Spring 2025), procurement and detailed planning commenced. A spring site delineation trip informed final quantities and specifications for erosion control materials, which were ordered and delivered to the YSR office in Whitehorse. Permits obtained during this phase were Working in Right of Way (Yukon Highways) and an approved Silviculture Treatment Plan (Yukon Forest Management Branch).

The field program ran from September 2-14th, 2025, involving a team of 13 people, including YSR staff, subcontractors and casual hires. The team was divided into two crews. Team 1 focused on erosion control and bioengineering installation, which included building different structures of non-live and live materials including straw wattles, erosion fabric mats, woody debris benches (non-live), fascines and pole drains (live). Team 2 focused on harvesting live materials for bioengineering structures. Following completion of these activities, subcontractor crews completed tree planting and live staking.

Outputs:

- Area restored: 3.32ha
- Live materials harvest: 5,498 stems (*Salix spp.*, *Populus balsamifera*)
- Erosion control (non-live): 22 structures completed (495m)
- Bioengineering: 29 structures completed (277m)
- Tree planting: 9360 (*Betula neoalaskana*)
- Staking: 2,673 (*Salix spp.*, *Populus balsamifera*)

2.2 Addressing Goals and Objectives

The goals of this project were to:

- Restore upland forests and minimize sediment inputs to Haggart Creek
- Prevent fish habitat degradation in Haggart Creek
- Build capacity within the community of NND and YSR to engage in nature-based solutions.

The specific objectives include:

- Restoring appropriate plant cover and reestablishing soil/peat building processes through strategic bioengineering and moss layer transfer techniques, to prevent ongoing degradation to fish habitat in this section of Haggart Creek
- Reduce the cumulative effects on the resident fish populations through on the ground ecological restoration.

The work completed directly supports the goals and objectives by restoring vegetation cover across the highly eroding slope using a combination of high density planting, live bioengineering and non-live erosion control

structures. As vegetation successfully establishes, root systems will provide long-term slope stabilisation, reducing sediment movement into Haggart creek and reducing stress to the creek habitat.

In the interim, non-live erosion control materials provided by YFWET play a critical role in capturing fines and sediment travelling downslope towards Haggart Creek. The scale and diversity of techniques implemented also contributed to increasing local capacity within YSR and local subcontractor crews, strengthening regional familiarity with techniques that will be increasingly needed as climate change continues to change the landscape.

2.3. Variances to Goals, Objectives, or Work Plan

Two variances occurred during project implementation:

- Due to other high priority work occurring within the Traditional Territory of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun (FNNND), and a focus on an operational scale of restoration, community capacity building was not completed at this site this year. Capacity building instead focused primarily on YSR internally and the subcontractor and casual hire staff involved in the project. Community workshops on erosion control and restoration at this site are planned to be a component of the larger-scale Haggart Creek Slope Restoration Project over the next few years.
- Another divergence was only implementing a restoration field program in the fall of 2025, rather than both in the spring and the fall as originally proposed. This adjustment was made given internal capacity constraints, and the logistical challenges of harvesting live materials during dormancy and maintaining viability until spring thaw of the ground. Fall implementation was determined to be the most appropriate window.

2.4. Contribution to Protection, Enhancement or Restoration of Fish, Wildlife, or their habitat

This comprehensive restoration program is expected to significantly reduce ongoing sedimentation of Haggart Creek through slope stabilisation and forest regeneration. By restoring an upland forest system and function, the project protects downslope habitats critical for vulnerable populations of fish species, including Chinook salmon and Arctic grayling.

The combination of non-live erosion control structures, live erosion control structures, live staking of Willow species (*Salix spp.*) and Balsam poplar (*Populus balsemifera*), and tree planting Alaska Paper Birch (*Betula neolaskana*) plug seedlings, establishes a resilient, multi-layered vegetative system with a high density rooting system, that supports long-term habitat protection.

2.5. Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from the program include reducing YSR overhead once subcontractors are established in their roles, and improving safe, ergonomic transport of materials upslope. This could include looking for helicopter assistance from local partners for materials placement upslope, or assessing erosion trade-offs of using an offroad vehicle.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

3.1. Information Sharing

The Haggart Creek Slope Restoration Project originated from an ongoing avenue of communication between YSR and FNNND, through which the Lands Department highlighted concern about the area during the summer of 2024. This communication prompted the work, and communication about the project has been ongoing. Most recently, YSR presented at the Downstream Effects Meeting, which is a group of specialists focused on the impact of the Victoria Gold heap leach disaster of 2024. In February 2026, YSR is hosting an annual research open house in Mayo, presenting work that is occurring across the FNNND Traditional Territory, where the completed work will be presented comprehensively to the community of Mayo.

Communications with the Yukon Government has been ongoing through permitting avenues.

3.2. Recognition of YFWET and its Mandate

YSR has consistently acknowledged YFWET's critical role in enabling this project, by supplying funds to procure non-live erosion control materials to reduce sedimentation in the interim while live plant materials are established. This has been included in all internal documentation, and in presentations, most recently at the Downstream Effects Meeting.

3.3. Communications Materials, Strategies, and Techniques

Primary communication avenues for this project include presentations, delivered at the YSR research open house, and to other bodies such as the Downstream Effects Meeting.

4 PHOTOS

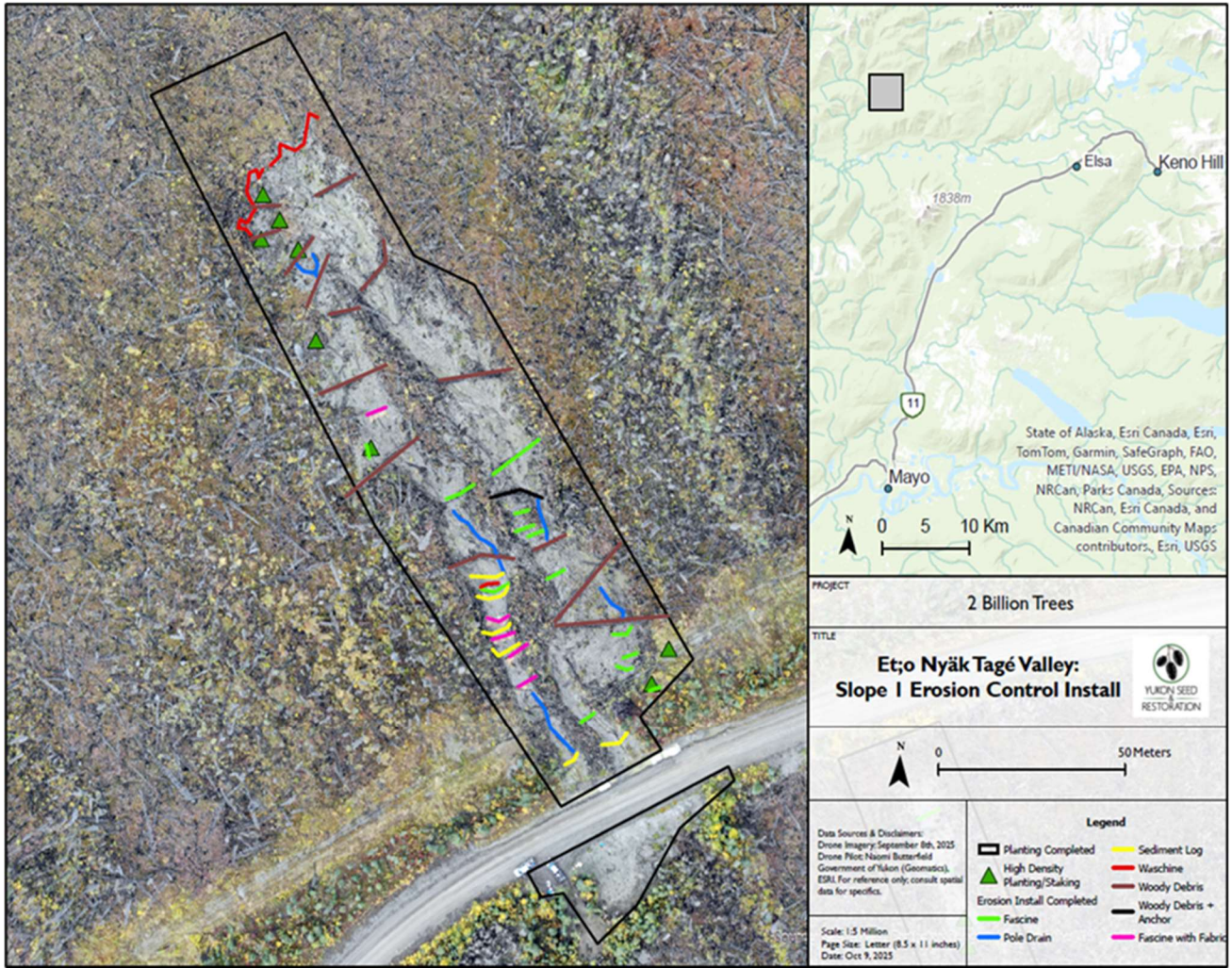


Figure 1. Map of Completed Erosion Control Installation



Figure 2. Aerial Shot of Completed Erosion Control Installation



Figures 3 & 4. Live Materials: Tree Seedlings and Live Erosion Control Structure



Figures 5 & 6. Non-Live Materials: Team installing Erosion Fabric and installed Sediment Log

5 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Project spent \$14,693.61 of the available \$13,440 budget, exceeding the budget by \$1,253.61 (Table 1). Figure 2 shows the expenditures for the project, not including wages. All receipts for the Project (including an internal invoice for wages) are included in Appendix A.

Table 1: Final Report Budget Sheet

Expenditure Category	Item	Projected Cost	Actual Cost
2. Wages, contract services	Team wages, including installation, planning, seed collection, pm	\$1,440	\$2,680.00
5. Materials & supplies	Bioengineering erosion control materials	\$12,000	\$12,013.61
Total			\$14,693.61

Figure 2: Transaction Drilldown Report YFWET

Transaction Drilldown Report Yukon Seed & Restoration Inc April 1, 2025-January 21, 2026									
Transaction date	Transaction type	#	Name	Memo/Description	Amount	Balance	Links to Receipts		
5660 Supplies and materials - CO5									
14/07/2025	Expense		Canadian Tire	Handsaivs and bags for staking - Kenci Kawlakuk	129.93	129.93	2025.07.14_CanadianTire.pdf		
15/07/2025	Expense		Canadian Tire	Burlap and pins	464.73	534.66	2025.07.15_CT_Casino.pdf		
23/07/2025	Expense		Sports Experts	Silky Saw	95.99	636.65	2025.07.23_RCT_Hougens.pdf		
07/08/2025	Bill	2025-08-07	Kristina Gardner Expenses	White Cap - Erosion control materials for Haggard Creek Project (YFWET)	7,651.30	7,681.95	2025.08.07_EXP_KGardner_whitecap.pdf		
07/08/2025	Expense	000132001052	Canadian Tire	Shovels for Haggard Creek - Kaleigh Mooney	69.97	7,750.92	2025.08.07_CanadianTire.pdf		
08/08/2025	Expense		Uline	Poly strapping, metal buckles, rope for Haggard Creek - Kaleigh Mooney	809.22	8,640.14	2025.08.07_Uline.pdf		
11/08/2025	Expense		MK Rittenhouse & Sons Ltd	Erosion control materials (duckbill earth anchors, large earth anchors, drive steels) - Project coding not provided - Kaleigh Mooney	1,278.43	9,918.57	2025.08.11_MKRittenhouse.pdf		
26/08/2025	Expense		Canadian Tire	signs, peat, traffic cones, sledge, pick axe, tape, watering can - 2BTerosion - Kaleigh Mooney	460.81	10,379.38	2025.08.26_CT_2BT.pdf		
28/08/2025	Expense		IRL Supplies (2011) Ltd.	Shivcoool Tarp - YFWET - Naomi Butterfield	545.47	10,924.85	28.08.25_IRLSupplies.pdf		
05/09/2025	Expense		Amazon	Sheaths for fiskar hand pruners - 2BT - Kaleigh Mooney	125.00	11,049.85	2025.09.05_Amazon.pdf		
16/09/2025	Bill	2025-09-16	Kristina Gardner Expenses	8.26 2025 Felco pruners and sheaths for 2BT live stake harvest	963.76	12,013.61	2025.09.16_EXP_KGardner_felco.pdf		
Total for 5660 Supplies and materials - CO5					\$12,013.61				
TOTAL					\$12,013.61				

6 CLOSURE

N. Butterfield

Naomi Butterfield
Intermediate Restoration Ecologist
Yukon Seed & Restoration
Whitehorse, Yukon
Email: naomi@yukonseed.ca
Web: www.yukonseed.ca

K Gardner

Kristina Gardner, RPF
General Manager
Yukon Seed & Restoration
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tel: (867) 335-0798
Email: kristina@yukonseed.ca
Web: www.yukonseed.ca

Appendix A - Receipts

See zipped file attached to report submission.








2026.02.16_YFWET_FinalReport

Final Audit Report

2026-02-18

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