



WHO WE ARE

The Slokan Valley Watershed Alliance is a non-profit society formed in 1982. The SVWA is a coalition of local watershed groups from Hills to South Slokan. Since its formation, the SVWA has worked to protect water quality, quantity and timing of flow. The SVWA supports forest use that maintains the forest while providing jobs and a diverse community economy. Membership is open to groups or individuals.

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors and may not represent the position of the SVWA as a whole unless expressly noted.



What do you Think?

The Slokan Valley Watershed Alliance welcomes letters from our newsletter readers.

Please send your feedback, suggestions and comments



to:
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Web:
www.watertalk.org/svwa

The SVWA Newsletter is produced by the newsletter committee and distributed to all households from Hills to South Slokan.

CHRONOLOGY CONT:

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(KBLUP). Again, the goal of participation was to ensure that the quality, quantity, and timing of flow of drinking water would not be adversely affected by industrial and recreational uses.

When it became clear to Slokan Valley water users that the MoF and the timber industry intended to log all of the domestic watersheds, the SVWA sent a request to Premier Clark and Forest Minister Zirnhelt in October **1996** to meet with them and other interests in the Slokan Valley to resolve the outstanding conflicts surrounding logging in domestic watersheds.

1996 Silva's Eco-system Landscape Plan Report is finished. Press conferences held in Nelson and Vancouver for Silva's Eco-system Based Landscape plan. SVWA, local municipal governments and majority of valley residents support the plan.

Angus Reid hired to conduct a poll of 400 Slokan Valley residents regarding general views concerning environmental and forestry issues. Results of Angus Reid poll show high level of concern for protection of the environment and support for Silva's eco-system based plan. SVWA presents government with "**Proposal for Negotiated Settlement of Slokan Valley Forest Use Conflicts**". Other community groups support proposal and forward similar proposals as well.

The summer of **1997** saw hundreds of people protesting at New Denver Flats, Perry Ridge, and Bonanza, with 35 arrested. The protests were an indication of the level of frustration of citizens over the failure of government to meet their legitimate needs for clean drinking water, despite many thousands of hours of sincere participation over 15 years in government-led processes.

Artists in the Valley donate over 20 pieces of art to support fundraiser for SVWA Peace Village has approximately 25 people staying per night, lots of activities "Uncut Ricardo" showing of video and slides from blockades August 29.

SVWA proposal "**Resolving Water Conflicts in the Slokan Valley**" made to Premier Clark and BC Cabinet November 10.

1999 - SVWA decides to go on the internet and develop web page at The Water Circle: www.watertalk.org

Third FLOW conference held; 3 days of workshops and presentations. Huge success with over 300 people attending and over \$5,000 raised for SVWA

2000 - Letters to premier Ujjal Dosanj requesting a moratorium on logging in contentious watersheds in the Slokan Valley. Slokan Valley Accord, another proposal for moratorium and negotiated settlement of land use conflicts in the valley.

March **2001** - Slokan Valley Watershed Alliance signed on to the BC Tapwater Alliance Petition to "**Protect the Source of Drinking Water by Legislating Watershed reserves**".

HOW IS YOUR WATER?

Many people are experiencing water shortages or even a loss of water due to current climate conditions or industrial activity.

If this is happening to you, please contact the SVWA at one of the addresses listed on the left. Thank You.

Newsletter back issues and reports available.

The SVWA newsletter has been published for many years. Many of these back issues are available on the SVWA web site. Sites produced by member groups, reports and links to other groups that do similar work are also available.

www.watertalk.org/svwa

and follow the links



FIVE YEARS OF BASELINE DATA:

From 1994 to 1996, the S.V.W.A established a volunteer based water-monitoring program that involved collecting water quality data on springs and creeks from Hills to Passmore.

In 1996, funding from FRBC enabled The Slokan Valley Water Monitoring Program to monitor flow, sediment, turbidity and temperature on 11 creeks. This baseline data is critical for detecting impacts from forestry operations.

In its 5th year and now administered by the Winlaw Watershed Committee, the S.V. Water Monitoring Program continues to collect data that helps us understand the character of the watersheds we depend on for clean water. Much credit goes to observers of the creek who provide valuable information on weather, channel changes and historic comparisons to previous years.

Each year, the information is collected and reviewed. Relational graphs are drawn, and events and trends are noted. Comparisons with similar creeks and previous years are made. Trends and anomalies are related to weather events recorded by the observer.

The following are observations based on the collected data:

◆ Grizzly creek, a tributary of Bonanza provides cool water that is critical for fish that spawn in Bonanza creek in late summer. Bonanza is the most important fish bearing creeks in the Slokan Valley Watershed.

◆ The upper valley creeks Cadden, Harris and Bartlett tend to have higher sediment loads during spring events than lower valley creeks, likely because of the bedrock geology.

◆ The varied terrain of the Hasty Watershed is reflected in the Hasty Creek Hydrograph. The creek shows moderating effects from the wetlands and sensitivity to high mountain rain events from the high elevation Hasty - Vevey Watershed.

◆ Elliot, the smallest creek in the program, has a well functioning natural filtering system that results in a low correlation between sediment and flow. It also has low fecal coliform counts - likely because of its cool ground water source.

◆ Fecal coliforms are detected in low numbers in all the creeks. E.coli is also present, but again, the numbers are very low.

◆ Because of its low elevation, Winlaw creek's spring high flow comes early. Winlaw is the most variable creek

for mineral content and like Grizzly it tends to stay cool all summer. When Slokan River temperatures rise this cool water provides refuge for fish.

◆ During extreme weather events, water levels in Airy Creek in Passmore can rise dramatically and unpredictably.

Airy water temperatures can also rise quite high in summer. The past five years have seen a wide variation in weather conditions and flow levels.

The valley had a record high flow in spring, 1997 and we may see some record low flows this year. In addition, we have documented each creek's response to extreme events - rain on snow and heavy fall rains. Each creek behaves differently during these events and their response reveals a lot about the nature and health of the watershed.

The Ministry of Environment recommended the inclusion of Benthic Invertebrate data on Winlaw Lemon, Airy and Bonanza Creeks. This biological parameter uses insect larvae as a sensitive indicator of change. Winlaw has been outstanding for the diversity of insect species and Bonanza shows large numbers of insects essential for a healthy fish population.

The yearly reports are available and we would be pleased to answer questions and share the information we have collected.

Jennifer Yeow - Slokan Valley Water Monitoring Program

The SVWA in 1998 ceased sponsoring the Water Monitoring Program when Slokan Forest Products became a partner in the funding process. However, the SVWA supports the principles of water monitoring and the potential benefits it may provide.

WHAT CAN I DO? Write to:

Honourable Joyce Murray
Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection
joyce.murray.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Mike De Jong
Minister of Forests
mike.dejong.mla@leg.bc.ca

Honourable Stan Hagen
Minister of Sustainable Resource Management
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all at: Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: SUPPORT THE SVWA
Send Donations to: Box 139, Winlaw BC V0G 2J0

The Most Water Protection for Your Money!