

The SSBC Eaton-Beaton Coldwater Habitat Restoration Project completed



March 2014

The recently released Independent Review of the Science and Management of Thompson River Steelhead (Levy, D.A. and E. Parkinson. 2014. Independent review of the science and management of Thompson River steelhead. Prepared for Thompson Steelhead Technical Subcommittee c/o Cook's Ferry Indian Band, Spences Bridge, BC. 104p. Available here:

http://www.steelheadsociety.org/sites/default/files/thompson_study_march_2014.pdf)

States: "Juvenile assessments undertaken by the B.C. Fish and Wildlife Branch, coupled with annual escapement monitoring, provide a basis for steelhead productivity analysis. Parr populations in the Thompson and its tributaries have shown only minor variations between years (between 217,000-307,000 parr) despite 4-fold differences in spawner density (approximately 500-2000 spawners). It follows that a freshwater population bottleneck may be suppressing the ability of the steelhead population to increase."

The Steelhead Society of BC is pleased to announce the completion of another Thompson River habitat restoration project. The \$85,000 Coldwater project at the Eaton Beaton Ranch approx 28km from Merritt is the third completed project in as many years that the SSBC has under taken.

The project included bank stabilization, installing and anchoring large woody debris, rock structures, planting a variety of vegetation and fencing off the area from grazing livestock. All of which will in the immediate and long term future will create more suitable habitat for Thompson juvenile steelhead and other salmonids such as coho. This year's project happened with the support of many partners including the angling public. Many of whom who donated items for auction and came and spent money at our November fundraising event or donated through our pay pal without this financial support this project would not have been able to happen. The Spences Bridge Steelhead Advocacy Group, BC Federation of Fly Fishers specifically with money from the BCFFF Gillie Fund, Totem Fly Fishers, Kingfishers Rod and

Gun Club and DFO were all major financial contributors. More details of the project can be viewed at:
<http://www.steelheadsociety.org/news/coldwater-river-habitat-restoration-project>

The SSBC is very pleased and excited about this year's project on the Nicola River, the single most important steelhead spawning tributary to the Thompson River. It will consist of repairing a substantial slide area that has been an ongoing cause of siltation over the past number of years. We are very much still in the process of securing funding partners for this project slated for the 2015 winter season, these projects are only the tip of the iceberg of the problems facing Thompson River steelhead. Commercial interception, ocean survival and salmon farming all still loom large in the decline of Thompson steelhead populations. All things the SSBC is dedicated to continuing to work on. For all interested in keeping up to date with news about Thompson River and all of BC's steelhead please visit us at our newly renovated Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SSBCmain> or find us on the web at: <http://www.steelheadsociety.org/>

Brian Braidwood, SSBC President