



Skagit Environmental
Endowment Commission

5 Year Plan: 2009-13

Approved January 26, 2009

KEN WILCOX, USA Co-Chair

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I n t r o d u c t i o n

The Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) is a non-profit entity working across the Canada/U.S. border in the upper Skagit watershed. It is dedicated to protecting the watershed and to supporting public knowledge and enjoyment of its ecological values. The Commission has developed initiatives focused on land management, education, recreation, and ecosystem management, and it pursues objectives related to these initiatives through collaboration with public and private partners.

The SEEC 2008 annual retreat, held August 21-22 in Diablo, Washington, was organized to develop the framework for a 5-Year Workplan. Commissioners, staff, and partner representatives gathered for two days to discuss past and future activities in each of the initiative areas and to review potential new and ongoing projects and their budget requirements. The intent was to create a plan that would focus investments on a clear strategy and objectives and would provide a greater measure of predictability to our partners. Thus, the plan develops a detailed budget for the 2009 fiscal year and a provisional budget for future years. The workplan is a living document that will grow and evolve as lessons are learned and conditions change in the upper Skagit.

Where we started and why we started

s t o r y

SEEC was established in 1984 by treaty between Canada and the U.S. It is based on an Agreement between the City of Seattle and the Province of British Columbia to resolve the controversy over the High Ross Dam expansion proposal.

In the treaty, Seattle City Light agreed not to raise Ross Dam for 80 years, in exchange for power purchased at rates equivalent to what would have resulted from raising the dam. The High Ross Treaty also created SEEC to manage an endowment fund that has among its purposes “to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat . . . to enhance recreational opportunities . . . to acquire mineral or timber rights . . . to conduct studies . . .” in the Upper Skagit Watershed until 2065.

SEEC is composed of eight volunteer Commissioners, four appointed by the B.C. Premier and four by the Seattle Mayor. Alternate Commissioners, in equal number, are also appointed, and all serve four-year terms. Administrative and technical support is provided through staff from Seattle City Light and the B.C. Ministry of Environment.

The Commission invests proceeds from the Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund in partnerships and projects that help achieve its mandate to protect the upper Skagit Watershed. Four initiatives provide structure to that mandate and objectives that will be achieved over time. SEEC's initiatives for education, recreation, land management, and conservation each involves complex social relationships and scientific information. As a consequence, the Commission takes a long-term view to achieving its objectives and believes that five years is a workable planning horizon.

Some of SEEC's work involves contract services, whether performed by private or public entities, and these are framed as projects that often span two or more years. Much of SEEC's work is accomplished through strategic partnerships with public and non-profit entities who either own land or otherwise work in the watershed. It is a benefit to both SEEC and its partners to have a mutual understanding of expected planning targets and resources available to achieve them. These targets reflect priority objectives for each of the four SEEC initiatives.

v i s i o n a n d v a l u e s

Central to SEEC's mission is the long-term protection of a healthy upper Skagit ecosystem. This requires strong and consistent management by resource agencies, oversight of human activity that can impact the environment, and in some cases expanded public ownership protections. At the same time, these resources should be available for the public to enjoy through recreational access and amenity. Public education is the glue that binds the program together, fostering human use that is compatible with a healthy ecosystem, while recruiting and inspiring the next generation of citizens who will appreciate and advocate for resource protection in the future.

November 2008 Roster of Commissioners:

U.S. Co-Chair	Ken Wilcox	Planning consultant, author, publisher
U.S. Commissioner	Tom Brucker	Attorney
U.S. Commissioner	Michelle Connor	Cascade Land Conservancy
U.S. Commissioner	Shirley Solomon	Skagit Watershed Council
Canada Co-chair	Peter Kennedy	Attorney
Canada Commissioner	Lex Bennett	Banker
Canada Commissioner	Ken Farquharson	Civil engineer
Canada Commissioner	Peter Caverhill	Fisheries biologist
U.S. Alt. Commissioner	James Hattori	Financial advisor
U.S. Alt. Commissioner	Timothy Manns	National Park Service (Ret.)
U.S. Alt. Commissioner	Alison Studley	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
U.S. Alt. Commissioner	Jennifer Watkins	Conservation Northwest
Canada Alt. Commissioner	Tom Bird	Sport Fishing Institute of BC
Canada Alt. Commissioner	Shaun Hollingsworth	BC Wildlife Fdn, BC Conservation Fdn
Canada Alt. Commissioner	Tracey Heron	Chilliwack Search and Rescue

Many thanks to Tony Kilduff, outgoing U.S. co-chair and to Dennis Canty and Martin Loesch, former U.S. Commissioners, for their participation in formulating this 5-year Workplan.

f u n d

The Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund, now valued at about \$8 million (USD), has been managed to keep pace with inflation while providing a flow of resources (currently about \$600,000 per year) to accomplish watershed focused projects both in B.C. and Washington State.

SEEC is accountable for all expense and investment decisions to the provincial government in B.C. and the City of Seattle in the U.S. Qualified parties are compensated appropriately to accomplish tasks towards SEEC's goals. SEEC's financial portfolio is professionally managed by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) Private Wealth Management. SEEC's revenue and expenditures are independently audited each year.

SEEC financial affairs are overseen by its one standing committee for Finance, as guided by a simple set of investment and spending policies. The committee drafts the annual budget, offers policy recommendations, and consults with the financial advisor each quarter. Finance Committee members are appointed by the Commission and include the two co-chairs and at least one U.S. and one B.C. member. Current members are Lex Bennett, Tom Brucker, Jim Hattori, Peter Kennedy, and Ken Wilcox. The Commission's spending policy sets a target annual rate of expenditure, and this is modified according to performance of the portfolio and considers the average of revenues and expenditures over several years.

Spending is consistent with the primary purposes of the fund, which are to conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities throughout the watershed upstream of Ross Dam.

l a n d

The upper Skagit watershed is largely in public ownership. Most of the land in the U.S. lies within the North Cascades National Park Complex, including a large portion of the Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The watershed also includes lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, more than half of which is within the Pasayten Wilderness. Much of the land in B.C. is within Manning, Skagit and Cascade Provincial Parks. Other areas are in forest industry production or private ownership.

l a n d a n d h i s t o r y

SEEC's mandate to care for the land requires it to recognize and respond to the land's history. First Nations and Indian Tribes have a rich heritage in the upper Skagit going back thousands of years. There is also a record of Euro-immigrant use of the region for transport routes, mining, forest harvest, and hydroelectric power. Ultimately, a vibrant contemporary debate about human uses of the upper Skagit has led to its protection through park and wilderness designations for much of the watershed. SEEC is collaborating with peoples and organizations who have history in the Skagit watershed and functions with an awareness and perspective of this history.

l a n d a n d f u t u r e

The paths of geology, biology and history in the upper Skagit have produced a rich and diverse natural watershed that is relatively well protected and productive. Nonetheless, existing infrastructure and human use, coupled with unplanned and unwelcome trends such as climate change and species declines, continue to pose some threat to the watershed. SEEC is supportive of measures to forestall risks in the current state of the watershed and to increase protection levels where possible. Its long term goal is to ensure the successful future co-existence of a healthy and fully functional ecosystem with human enjoyment by visitors and seasonal residents.

p a r t n e r s h i p s

Through more than twenty years of activities, natural partnerships have formed with organizations who share SEEC's passion and mandate in some way. Partners are non-governmental organizations and government agencies. SEEC wants to teach, monitor, learn, influence, protect and promote. This can only be accomplished through the partners.

Current partners include:

- B.C. MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (MoE) – The Ministry is responsible for air and water quality, parks, and fish and wildlife resources. SEEC works directly with the Lower Mainland region which includes Skagit Provincial Park and much of the Skagit watershed.
- U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NORTH CASCADES (NPS) – The Service is responsible for the protection, study, and recreational use of North Cascades National Park and the Ross Lake National Recreation Area. The Park has just celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

- U.S. NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE (NCI) – NCI is a nonprofit organization helping to connect people, nature and community through science, art, literature and the hands-on study of natural and cultural history. Started in 1986, it now operates the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center near Diablo, Washington.
- B.C. HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING (HMCOL) – The Mountain Centre is a non-profit organization developing outdoor learning experiences from its base in Hope, B.C. The Centre works with the Fraser Cascade School District and provides programs for teachers, youth, and adults.
- U.S. STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (SCA) – SCA is a national non-profit group which has just celebrated its 50th Anniversary. SCA provides hands-on trail building and camping experiences for youth from Canada and the U.S.

Workplan Components

At its 2008 retreat, the Commission re-affirmed its focus on land management, education, recreation, and ecosystem management. An outline for each of these initiatives is included below. The Commission will continue to articulate and pursue its own objectives and projects, working in collaboration with its partners. The Commission also re-affirmed its commitment to maintain and build the Endowment principal, to adjust spending accordingly on a multi-year averaged basis, and to reserve the option occasionally to invest targeted capital amounts as opportunities may arise.

Overall, the workplan includes three categories of projects. Partnership Workplan Support involves primarily the education initiative, supporting ongoing program elements with key partners. Partnership Joint Projects is an intended schedule of projects over 5 years and may involve any of the initiative areas. The Optional Funding category reserves a portion of funds to respond to emerging opportunities.

SEEC annual cycle

Each year, the Commission will review and revise the workplan as the basis for its detailed annual budget. Keeping with a roughly quarterly annual meeting schedule, this work will be accomplished as follows.

- Summer (August) – The annual retreat will include detailed review of prior accomplishments and future strategies under the workplan. Concept proposals for future projects are presented and discussed by Commissioners and Partners.
- Fall (November) – Staff will work with Initiative subgroups to develop proposed projects and overall detailed budget. Annual review of fund management and resources available. Commission will conduct any needed negotiation and balancing to produce preliminary budget.
- Winter (January) – Project details developed. Budget approved by Commission for submission to legislative bodies in B.C. and Seattle. Schedule for contracting discussed.
- Spring (May) – Approval of contracts for projects implementing the workplan elements.

Partnership Workplan Support

At the 2008 retreat, the Commission re-affirmed its commitment to education as a key initiative. In part, this is in recognition that those who will protect the land long after the treaty term has expired are those who have come to love, respect and enjoy the Skagit.

SEEC acknowledges the critical importance of partner relationships to accomplish its educational objectives. Each of the partners has its own resources, objectives, and skills. SEEC funding can help broaden the reach of these organizations to new capabilities and can encourage the partners to work collaboratively together toward mutual interests and goals. Predictable funding by SEEC also benefits partner organizations, allowing them to plan ahead, to retain valued staff, and to leverage additional resources.

As an initial allocation, following recent history, a listing of fund commitments for 2009-10 was developed. The Commission expects that the total budget for these organizations will remain relatively constant over five years, but expects that the allocation among the organizations and to specific programs may change in the future. SEEC commits to working with its partners to evaluate strategies and needs each year.

Partnership Joint Projects

SEEC will work with its partners and others to develop joint projects and prioritize individual conservation and recreation objectives. Approximately \$200,000 per annum is allocated for investment in these projects, which may extend over multiple years although each project will need to be reflected in each annual budget to meet our reporting and financial obligations.

water quality monitoring - B.C.

As a separate core program element, SEEC wishes to continue to support water quality monitoring in the B.C. portion of the watershed. This work was initiated through a consulting contract to develop a baseline water quality model in 2007-08. Ongoing monitoring will help alert the Commission if water quality is compromised as a result of land uses or accidental pollutant discharge in the basin. Allocated for this monitoring work is \$20,000 per year.

ecosystem management

At the retreat, the land management agencies summarized recent activities and existing proposals around monitoring to support ecosystem conservation. The National Park Service has proposed partnering with SEEC to secure support for its "Vital Signs" long-term ecosystem monitoring. The Ministry of Environment's Fish and Wildlife Management Plan has identified initial monitoring priorities for selected species. The resource agencies are working collaboratively to develop detailed plans for monitoring.

r e c r e a t i o n

There was also discussion about priority recreational projects and an initial list was proposed by the land management agencies. It was acknowledged that agency resources for maintenance of recreational facilities is a limiting factor, and SEEC must be mindful of the added maintenance burden of any new facility or trail.

l a n d m a n a g e m e n t

The Commission continues to believe that additional land protection measures should be pursued, especially in B.C. To this end, \$1,000,000 continues to be set aside to support the acquisition of land and land rights. In addition, as a major land management and wildlife agency responsibility, up to \$500,000 in support for grizzly bear recovery may be made available from this capital allocation, if appropriate avenues for investment are developed.

O p t i o n a l F u n d i n g

There is a built-in flexibility in the 5-year plan, leaving some room in the budget for new or timely projects as they arise. These projects could add up to \$100,000 per year, although spending will be constrained by the overall budget and the level of other commitments in any given year.

Projects in this category are to include a First People's Public Archaeology event (one year expenditure). This event, to be held in September, 2009 will serve as a gathering at the northern head of Ross Lake for U.S. and Canadian tribes whose ancestors traveled the Skagit Watershed. Public presentation of archaeological knowledge and stories will be shared. This also fulfills a commitment made at our public consultative process at Semiahmoo in 2005.

P u b l i c O u t r e a c h

Informing and educating Skagit Basin stakeholders and the general public is a SEEC goal that cuts across the four initiative areas. Many of the individual SEEC projects and activities involve an outreach component, and the Commission has a history of targeted communications to make its views known. The Commission will maintain and enhance its website as a key outreach vehicle and will work to make SEEC-funded research publicly accessible. Completion of this digitizing and database effort is anticipated in 2009. Funding support will come in the Administrative category or through the optional funding. SEEC will also develop a template for reporting by its partners on projects accomplished each year.



goal

Environmental education builds awareness, which fosters an appreciation of natural places. This in turn is lived out through stewardship. Caring for the Skagit watershed can mean

- raising awareness and advocacy,
- teaching others how to recreate responsibly and
- finding ways to affect decisions about its protection.

identified partners in education

Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning	(HMCOL)
North Cascades Institute	(NCI)
Student Conservation Association	(SCA)
National Park Service	(NPS)
B.C. Ministry of Environment	(MoE)

recent actions

- Multiple-year support for NCI Mountain School program.
- Multiple-year funding for International Interpretive Program at Hozomeen
- 2004 Education and Interpretation Needs Assessment for the Upper Skagit Watershed. Reports are available at <http://skagiteec.org/endowment/faq>
- 2005 Perspectives on High Ross Treaty, phase one of Skagit Oral History Project
- 2006 Protecting an International Watershed conference at Semiahmoo, Blaine, WA.
- Multiple-year support for HMCOL and Fraser Cascade School District

o b j e c t i v e s

- Build awareness of “single transboundary ecosystem” concept across a broad audience
- Build capacity for Skagit education in Canada
- Continue to build youth education capacity and quality
- Develop recognition of the Skagit as a living laboratory for research and education
- Work to reach diverse audiences with accessible, meaningful program content
- Improve front-country infrastructure to support educational programs

i d e n t i f i e d t o o l s

- electronic media and publications
- public/news media
- conferences and forums
- classes and events

SEEC ROLE	PARTNERS ROLE
Identify and provide financial support to partner organizations	Attract public audiences to the Skagit watershed
Work with partners to define target audience and core messages	Convert research into interpretive material for presentation to the public
Advocate for organizational and financial support by others	Develop programs to teach care for wild places
	Develop advocates for increased protection of the Skagit
	Generate financial support to match SEEC contributions

w o r k p l a n e l e m e n t s

Considering its long-term commitment to education, partner relationships are most well-developed in this initiative area. Overall, the Commission has sought to support a program that is balanced, both across the border and between public and non-profit entities. The Commission will encourage the educational partner entities to work together to continually refresh and re-focus program offerings. Key workplan elements for education include:

- **MOUNTAIN SCHOOL** – North Cascades Institute offers a variety of educational programs for all ages and operates the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center at Diablo Reservoir in the upper Skagit basin. NCI has received annual support from SEEC for its Mountain School since 1991. Mountain School is a program for elementary, middle-school and high-school ages and has hosted more than 14,000 students since 1989. It typically involves a 3-day stay at the Learning Center, with a mix of indoor and outdoor program elements and curriculum focused on both the natural and cultural heritage of the Skagit. In 2008, NCI launched a “diversity initiative” to better serve the changing complexion of its closest target audience in the lower Skagit valley. SEEC support for Mountain School in 2009 will be heavily matched within a program budget of more than \$400,000.

- HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING – The Commission has been pleased to partner with this relatively new non-profit entity working in the upper Skagit and lower Fraser River valleys from its base in Hope, B.C. This work begins to fulfill a long-standing interest by the Commission in building capacity for educational outreach in the Canadian portion of the basin. HMCOL has made strong progress in hiring staff, developing fund-raising and public relations plans, conducting pilot programs and partnering with the Fraser Cascade School District. HMCOL will continue in this capacity building mode through 2009.
- INTERNATIONAL JOINT INTERPRETATION - NPS and MoE both conduct and support educational programming in the upper Skagit watershed. The agencies assist the Student Conservation Association’s international crew and provide support to other youth outdoor programs. A key program supported by SEEC is the International Joint Interpretation provided at Hozomeen at the head of Ross Lake. Elements include evening interpretive programs at the new amphitheater at International Point, guided hikes to Hozomeen Lake, interpretive walks along the Trail of the Obelisk, children’s programs at International Point, and interpretive talks in the campgrounds.
- INTERNATIONAL TRAILS CREW – The Student Conservation Association is a U.S. non-profit that provides hands-on outdoor experiences for high-school youths. For many years, SCA has received SEEC support to operate a trails crew on both sides of the border. Typically, 8 students plus crew leaders from Canada and the U.S. spend 30 days in the watershed, building and restoring trails and developing a permanent camp at Hozomeen. This program will continue in 2009, with goals of boosting participation from north of the border and building matching support for the program.
- HOZOMEEN GATHERING - The upper Skagit is an ancient traditional gathering place that today straddles two countries. A two day event is being planned for the fall of 2009, fulfilling a long-standing Commission interest in the cultural heritage of basin. It will take place at Hozomeen and will involve cultural scientists, First Nation and Tribal members, agency representatives and others to gather to share knowledge and stories honoring the long history of indigenous involvement with the landscape. Youth education will also be a focus.

r e s p o n s i b l e c o m m i s s i o n e r s

Lex Bennett

Tracey Heron

Shaun Hollingsworth

Tim Manns



g o a l

SEEC wants to monitor, learn from and influence ecosystem protection. The goals are co-existence of healthy ecosystems and human communities and long-term protection of the Upper Skagit watershed through a unified ecosystem management approach that balances protection with recreation.

i d e n t i f i e d p a r t n e r s i n e c o s y s t e m m a n a g e m e n t

Environment Canada (EC)
Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)
National Park Service (NPS)
Ministry of Forests and Range (MoFR)
Ministry of Environment (MoE)
US Forest Service (USFS)
Seattle City Light (SCL)
Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

r e c e n t a c t i o n s

- 2005 Conservation Biology Funding Priorities in the Upper Skagit Watershed. Needs Assessment reports are available at <http://www.skagiteec.org/endowment/faq/>
- Provided funding for B.C. Fish and Fish Habitat Inventory
- Provided funding and substantive comment for B.C. Fish and Wildlife Management Plan
- Promoted Grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades within the U.S. and Canada through public outreach, direct advocacy and offers of funding support.

- Promoted cross-border collaboration on ecosystem monitoring through interagency meetings.
- Funded water quality monitoring in B.C. to develop aquatic habitat information and support land management.

o b j e c t i v e s

- Select and promote conservation of target species, assemblages, and ecosystem features
- Support collaborative, sustainable monitoring efforts
- Develop document management and GIS capacity relating to ecosystem information

i d e n t i f i e d t o o l s

- research projects
- monitoring projects (status and trends monitoring)
- dissemination of research and monitoring results
- information management systems

s u g g e s t e d c r i t e r i a

The scope of what can be funded within this initiative is so broad that criteria must be considered to ensure a sustained and sustainable focus. Recommended criteria are:

- Transborder importance (the single ecosystem view)
- Processes or projects where there are other funding partners
- Projects must include a public information component or public value
- Projects must bring players together - cross border cooperation
- Legacy - build on what SEEC has already done or what we want to do in the future i.e. water quality work or fish angler study
- Funds allocated by SEEC are project specific as opposed to lump-sum grants
- Get partners input on proposed projects and/or projects that are a priority for partners

SEEC ROLE	PARTNERS ROLE
Affirm priority species and issues for support	Complete projects in timely and thorough manner
Encourage collaboration across agencies and across the border	Develop and support collaborative relations among agencies
Promote information compatibility and accessibility	Generate internal and external resources to match SEEC support
Support dissemination of ecosystem information to a broad audience	Produce materials to support dissemination of ecosystem information

w o r k p l a n e l e m e n t s

- The National Park Service has educated SEEC and its BC partners about the “Vital Signs” ecosystem monitoring program. This program has been developed at parks throughout the U.S. and the Northwest region, and it includes formally reviewed monitoring protocols for a

variety of ecosystem components. SEEC has agreed to provide funding to augment NPS resources for ecosystem monitoring with selected protocols. SEEC has also worked to ensure coordination between the NPS and MoE on monitoring and to generate specific monitoring components that can be funded and supported by MoE in BC.

- Fish populations and fisheries in Ross Lake are critically important ecosystem components, indicators, and recreation resources. Both bull trout and rainbow trout, for example, live in Ross Lake and migrate into tributaries in both B.C. and the U.S. to spawn. Recent trends in these and other fish populations have raised concerns about long-term ecosystem health. SEEC intends to participate with other agencies to evaluate and develop future management actions. This work will be the initial focus of monitoring studies in B.C.
- As a component of its land management initiative, SEEC commissioned a water quality assessment throughout the watershed in BC. The consultant, Limnotek Research and Development Inc. used a “reference condition approach” to develop a water quality model based on the distribution of benthic invertebrate communities. Annual effort is budgeted to refine and use the model as an indicator of water quality. SEEC is pursuing partnership opportunities to conduct this work most efficiently in the future.

r e s p o n s i b l e c o m m i s s i o n e r s

Tom Bird Pete Caverhill Alison Studley Jennifer Watkins



g o a l

SEEC wants to monitor, learn from and influence protection levels of all lands that impact the Skagit watershed.

i d e n t i f i e d p a r t n e r s i n l a n d m a n a g e m e n t

Ministry of Environment (MoE)
 Ministry of Forest and Range (MoFR)
 Grizzly Bear Outreach Project (GBOP)
 Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)

National Park Service (**NPS**)
 U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
 Ministry of Mines (MoM)

r e c e n t a c t i o n s

- 2004-5 Land Management Needs Assessment. Needs assessment reports are available at <http://www.skagiteec.org/endowment/faq>
- Contracted for development of baseline water quality information to monitor land development impacts (i.e. mining, Sunshine Valley development)
- Examined and retired eight Crown-granted mineral titles
- Monitored mining and other land development proposals (i.e. Giant Copper, 18 & 20 Mile Creeks, mining claims on USFS lands)
- Funded and provided comments on MoE Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for the Upper Skagit Watershed
- Commented on NPS Ross Lake National Recreation Area General Management Plan

o b j e c t i v e s

- Protect against impacts from land uses such as mining, forest harvest, and residential development
- Promote actions to minimize such impacts through tools such as regulation, acquisition, protective designations, education, and public activism
- Build SEEC “watchdog” presence and influence
- Promote grizzly bear recovery, as a goal and set of actions by land management agencies.

i d e n t i f i e d t o o l s

- Acquisition of land and land rights
- Public information and advocacy
- Influence on public agency decision making
- Research information to support and influence land use decisions

w o r k p l a n e l e m e n t s

The Commission has established two sets of resources to pursue this initiative.

- First, the Commissioners have an active role in monitoring land use proposals and land management decisions in the basin. Activities of SEEC’s Outreach Coordinator include support for these efforts.
- Second, the Commission has identified a budget set-aside that can be used to respond to specific opportunities when they arise. This budget commitment is also a visible statement to both land-owners and the community about SEEC’s land management goals.

Consultant Denis G. Lieutard has performed a number of specific tasks over the past two years. Several mining claims were retired, and the stage set for potential acquisition of several parcels in B.C. This work is nearing completion. SEEC has consulted with both non-profit land trusts and with MoE and has determined that the MoE’s land acquisition process is a preferred method for moving ahead on selected parcels. As a policy matter, the Crown would own any such parcels, not SEEC.

Development interest at the Giant Copper mine site has ebbed and flowed with the metals market-prices in past years. Continued vigilance is necessary, and SEEC may develop a more targeted strategy for addressing any major mining proposal.

Several potential land use activities merit ongoing observation. SEEC leadership is in continued discussion, for example, with the Fraser Valley Regional District and with the City of Hope concerning community forest and small park proposals at the western edge of the watershed. Concept proposals for several Independent Power Production (IPP) projects require ongoing monitoring, as do interests in increased residential development and water use near the Sunshine Village community.

Several potential studies and habitat acquisition targets have been identified: Conservation Values of Crown Lands Overview Study; Tributary Watersheds Environmental Assessment; Sunshine Valley wetlands acquisition (with Ducks Unlimited).

SEEC supports the recovery of grizzly bears in the North Cascades. Most of this effort to date has been in providing public information about grizzlies and in encouraging government agencies to take action. In B.C., key actions would be to relocate bears to the Skagit from other, larger grizzly populations. In the U.S., the next step would be for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate recovery alternatives. To stimulate such actions, SEEC has made known its willingness to invest up to \$500,000 over a period of several years. Thus far, the government agencies have not taken actions that would allow the expenditure of these funds.

\$1,000,000 is set aside for land management opportunities as they arise. This includes funding to support the acquisition of land and/or land rights. Also, these funds may be used to support grizzly bear recovery actions, as approved by the Commission, up to a maximum of \$500,000 over five years.

r e s p o n s i b l e c o m m i s s i o n e r s

Michelle Connor

Ken Farquharson

Shaun Hollingsworth

Peter Kennedy



g o a l

SEEC wants to promote and protect the sustainable enjoyment of the Skagit watershed by a diversity of users.

i d e n t i f i e d p a r t n e r s i n r e c r e a t i o n

Ministry of Environment (MoE)
National Park Service (NPS)
US Forest Service (USFS)

Student Conservation Association (SCA)
Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC)

r e c e n t a c t i o n s

- 2004-5 Upper Skagit Watershed Recreational Needs Assessment. Needs Assessment reports are available at <http://www.skagiteec.org/endowment/faq>
- Sponsored construction of the International Amphitheater at Hozomeen
- Commented on Ross Lake National Recreation Area General Management Plan
- Supported planning for trails and camping opportunities
- Funded B.C. Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for the upper Skagit and supporting studies

o b j e c t i v e s

- Promote the provision by land management agencies of a high-quality, varied recreational experience of a character and quantity that is sustainable over time
- Support a balance of “front county” and “back country” amenities useful to individuals, families, and groups
- Contribute to the provision of a high-quality, sustainable angling experience

- Encourage the development and maintenance of trails and facilities in a manner that has low impact on natural values
- Support volunteer involvement and learning in development and maintenance of facilities

identified tools

- Construction projects
- Renovation projects
- Public information projects - events

suggested criteria

- Things that won't happen without us
- Things that will happen better because of us
- Unfunded or under-funded projects or needs
- Consistency with SEEC purposes and vision.

workplan elements

SEEC is mandated by the High Ross Treaty to enhance the recreational experience of the upper Skagit. It must do so in collaboration with the land-management agencies and in ways that are mindful of the costs to maintain new facilities, as well as potential impacts to ecosystems and wilderness values. As a consequence, SEEC must be very selective in its investments while also ensuring that the protection and restoration of existing infrastructure are not compromised. Consensus has been reached with the land-management agencies about several elements listed in the 5-Year provisional budget. The following items are also of interest to the Commission and merit further discussion.

- Upgrade Skagit River Trail campsites
- Construct riverbank trail from Ross Lake Campground to Chittenden Bridge
- Develop trail from Chittenden meadow to International Creek and Silver Creek
- Examine history and feasibility to re-establish Whatcom Trail from Depot Creek to Maselpalik Valley, with possible link to Galene Lakes trail
- Clear and develop Shawatum Valley trail, extending to Mt. Andrews, Mt. Brice and Shawatum Mt.
- Install historic marker and information display on Whatcom and Skagit Pack trails proximal to 26 Mile Bridge day use.
- Future consideration: Cascade Recreation Area, Maselpalik Valley and Manning Park West; potential additional U.S. projects.

responsible commissioners

Ken Farquharson Tracey Heron Ken Wilcox

Appendix – 1

August 2008 Retreat Summary

The August 2008 retreat participants heard presentations from the Commission leads on each initiative and from our partners. In addition our partners participated together in presentations and expressions of future co-operation with each other, which resulted in excellent work. We should note that the partners' shared commitment to take on a greater or lesser role in any given year with respect to one another was a well spoken assessment of the Commission's desire to work in the Skagit watershed and not distinctly in the U.S. and B.C.

The retreat participants formed small groups to consider each initiative with groupings not necessarily representing the parties that "presented". These groups were given general direction regarding ethics and other issues which arose in the course of the presentations.

The information from the retreat discussions has been organized under each initiative to provide scope and perspective to the volume of information and work that went into the resulting resolutions.

Thanks for all the hard work and effort represented here.

Resolutions unanimously approved at the August retreat:

- a. That the outline for the 5-year Workplan, including a fixed budget category and an annual allocation for projects, be accepted.
- b. That an additional \$200,000 is allocated for Year One approximately as follows:
 - Conservation Projects \$100,000
 - Land Management Projects \$ 20,000
 - Recreation Projects \$ 80,000
- c. That the proposed fixed budget be \$280,000 per annum for next 5 years. (Note that \$20,000 for water quality monitoring in BC is listed separately from the \$260,000 for Partnership Workplan Support.)
- d. That the project ideas proposed by the NPS and MoE partners be accepted as part of the Year One plan.

5-Year Workplan Provisional Budget

Workplan Element*		Year				
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Education - Partnership Workplan Support						
	Student Conservation Association	40,000				
	Hope Mountain Centre	48,448				
	North Cascades Institute	80,000				
	BC Ministry of Environment					
	International Interpretive Program	20,000				
	Youth Program Support	20,000				
	US National Park Service					
	International Interpretive Program	20,000				
	Youth Program Support	20,000				
Subtotal Partnership Workplan Support		248,448	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
Ecosystem Management Projects						
	BC Water Quality Monitoring	16,149	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Skagit Fish & Wildlife Management Plan (MOE)	12,112	15,000			
	Terrestrial Species and Habitat					
	Wolverine Monitoring (MOE)	12,112	15,000			
	Harlequin Ducks (MOE)		TBD			TBD
	Deer/Goat Winter Range Monitoring (MOE)			11,000		
	Land Birds Monitoring (NPS)	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
	Aquatic Species and Habitat					
	Skagit/Sumallo Angler Survey (MOE)		30,000			30,000
	Skagit River Fish Population Assessment (MOE)	12,112	15,000	15,000		
	BC/Washington Fish Sampling Methods (MOE)	6,056				
	Ross Lake Fish Population Assessment (NPS)	4,000				4,000
	Ross Lake Water Quality Monitoring (NPS)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
	Ross Lake Tributaries Monitoring (NPS)	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
	Mountain Lakes Monitoring (NPS)	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Subtotal Ecosystem Management		112,542	145,000	96,000	70,000	104,000
Recreation / Outreach Projects						
	Skagit River Trail Connections (MOE)	11,708	38,000	TBD	30,000	TBD
	Nepopekum Trail Study	8,075				
	Hozomeen Group Camp Renovation		TBD	TBD	TBD	
	International Point Amphitheater (NPS & MOE)	10,000	10,000			
	Happy Flats Toilet Facility (NPS & MOE)	15,000				
	Winnebago Flats Rehabilitation (NPS)	7,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Hozomeen Visitor Orientation Maps (NPS & MOE)			10,000		
Subtotal Recreation / Outreach Projects		51,783	68,000	30,000	50,000	20,000
Land Management Projects						
	Outreach Coordinator	16,149				
	Land Management Projects		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Subtotal Land Management Projects		16,149	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

5-Year Workplan Provisional Budget (cont.)

Optional Funding						
	Gathering at Hozomeen Program	43,200				
	Other Special Projects					
Subtotal Optional Funding		43,200				
Administration						
	Meetings/Per Diem	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
	Insurance	2,277	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
	Special Projects	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Financial Mgmt	44,411	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Audit	8,882	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Miscellaneous	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Subtotal Administration		88,570	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000
Contingency**		39,307	11,000	98,000	104,000	100,000
TOTAL		600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Land and land rights acquisition and/or grizzly bear restoration (up to \$1,000,000)						

* Funds are shown here in US currency. The 2009 budget is shown in detail; future years will require adjustment, depending on funds available, SEEC priorities, and currency exchange. In detailed annual budgeting, items to be paid through the CAN account will be budgeted in Canadian currency and then converted to US currency for the combined budget.

** The contingency is intended to account for uncertainties in partner matching funds, optional funding priorities, and unforeseen needs and opportunities.

Glossary of Terms and Organizations

Alternate Commissioner	Commissioners who vote in the Commissioner's absence. In practice, all members of the Commission participate in a wide variety of projects.
BC Ministry of the Environment	The British Columbia provincial government ministry responsible for environmental management of the province. Internet Reference: http://www.gov.bc.ca/env
Commissioner	A member Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission charged with administering the Endowment Fund consisting of an eight-person Canadian delegation appointed by the Premier of British Columbia and an eight-person U.S. delegation appointed by the Mayor of Seattle. All are appointed to four-year terms on a staggered basis.
Giant Copper Mine	A wholly owned mining property of Imperial Metals Corporation east of Hope, BC on Silver Daisy Mountain. Internet Reference: http://imperialmetals.com/s/GiantCopper.asp
High Ross Treaty	A 1984 Treaty between the U.S. and Canada containing an Agreement between the City of Seattle and the Province of British Columbia to settle the controversy over the High Ross Dam proposal.
Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning (HMCOL)	An educational institution in Hope, British Columbia providing environmental, educational programming for adult and youth learners. Internet Reference: http://hopemountain.org
In-Holding Properties	Private land parcels located within protected lands such as designated parkland.
North Cascades Institute (NCI)	An educational institution for learners of all ages. Recently, a partnership with the National Park Service and the City of Seattle enabled the development of the Environmental Learning Center, an innovative learning / accommodation facility surrounded by millions of acres of protected public lands.
Pasayten Wilderness	A protected are located within Washington State, centered on the watershed of the upper Pasayten River, a tributary of the Similkameen River. The northern boundary is the Canadian border.
Provincial Parks Manning, Skagit, Cascade	The British Columbia Provincial system of parks is dedicated to the protection of natural environments for use by the public.

Ross Dam	The Skagit River Hydroelectric Project is a series of dams with hydroelectric power generating stations on the Skagit River in northern Washington State. The project is owned and operated by Seattle City Light to provide electric power for the City of Seattle and surrounding communities. The three major dams in the Skagit River Project are (from lower to upper) Gorge Dam, Diablo Dam, and Ross Dam. Ross Lake, formed by Ross Dam extends into British Columbia, which is 20 miles upriver from the dam. Ross Lake National Recreation Area surrounds the lake.
Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission	In the 1960's and '70's, the Skagit activists lobbied to save the valley bottom from flooding by the proposed "High Ross Dam". The dam proposal would have flooded vast areas of Canadian and American territory, but was rejected in 1983. In that year, the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC) was established to provide funding for education and environmental initiatives within the Skagit Watershed. Internet Reference: http://skagiteec.org
Student Conservation Association (SCA)	The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities. Internet Reference: http://www.thesca.org
Sunshine Valley	A residential resort community located in British Columbia just west of Manning Park's west gate on Highway 5.
US National Park Service, North Cascades	Internet Reference: http://www.nps.gov/noca

Acronyms

CIBC	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. SEEC's portfolio manager.
GIS	Geographical Information System
FVRD	Fraser Valley Regional District, British Columbia
GBOP	Grizzly Bear Outreach Program
HMCOL	Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning
MoE	BC Ministry of Environment
MoFR	BC Ministry of Forests and Range
MoM	BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

NCI	North Cascades Institute
NPS	US National Park Service
SCA	Student Conservation Association
SCL	Seattle City Light
SEEC	Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
USFS	United States Forest Service
WCWC	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Excerpts from the Treaty

A TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA RELATING TO THE
SKAGIT RIVER AND ROSS LAKE IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON ... SIGNED AT
WASHINGTON ON APRIL 2, 1984

BRITISH COLUMBIA – SEATTLE AGREEMENT
30th day of March, A.D. 1984

SECTION 11. – ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT FUND

British Columbia and Seattle shall establish an Environmental Endowment Fund to finance an Environmental Endowment Commission to administer the provision and maintenance of environmental amenities and recreation facilities in the Ross Lake/Skagit Valley area, as outlined in Appendix D. to which Seattle will be the prime initial contributor.

APPENDIX D. – SKAGIT ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT FUND AND COMMISSION

This appendix is part of an agreement between the City of Seattle and British Columbia and relates to the establishment, and administration through a Commission of a Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund.

The City of Seattle ("Seattle") and the Government of the Province of British Columbia ("British Columbia"):

Recognizing that the settlement regarding High Ross Dam presents recreational and environmental opportunities in both the United States and Canada; and

Recognizing that certain physical improvements to recreational facilities have been delayed due to the uncertainty surrounding the raising of Ross Dam; and

Recognizing that Americans and Canadians enjoy recreation on both sides of the border; and

Desiring to enhance recreational opportunities and protect environmental resources consistent with authority of governmental agencies in the United States and Canada:

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

British Columbia and Seattle herewith establish a fund to be called the "Skagit Environmental Endowment Fund," administered by a commission. The Fund shall have as its purposes, within the watershed of the Skagit River:

- (a) To conserve and protect wilderness and wildlife habitat;
- (b) To enhance recreational opportunities in the Skagit Valley;

- (c) To acquire mineral or timber rights consistent with conservation and recreational purposes;
- (d) To conduct studies of need and feasibility of projects;
- (e) To plan for and construct hiking trails, foot bridges, interpretive displays and the like;
- (f) To cause the removal of stumps and snags in Ross Lake and on the shoreline as deemed appropriate, and the grooming and contouring of the shoreline, consistent with wildlife habitat protection; and
- (g) To connect, if feasible, Manning Provincial Park and the North Cascades National Park by a trail system.

ARTICLE II

Seattle shall contribute the sum of \$1,000,000 (U.S. currency) to the Fund per year for four years and British Columbia shall contribute the sum of \$250,000 (U.S. currency) to the Fund per year for four years. The first such payments shall be made within four months after the coming into force of the Treaty but in any event not before January 30, 1985. Subsequent payments shall be made not later than the anniversary dates of the first payment.

Seattle shall supplement the Fund by annual payments at a rate set by the Commission not to exceed 20¢ (U.S. currency) per megawatt hour from purchases of electricity pursuant to this agreement. Annual payments shall be made on or before December 31 of each year commencing in 1986.

British Columbia shall supplement the Fund by annual payments at a rate set by the Commission not to exceed 20¢ (U.S. currency) per megawatt hour of electricity resulting from the raising of the operating level of Seven Mile Reservoir and Dam. Annual payments shall be made on or before December 31 of each year commencing in 1986.

Subsequent to 1986, the authorized maximum rate of supplemental funding shall be adjusted by the Commission on an annual basis to account for inflation. Adjustment for inflation shall be based on the rate of general inflation in the United States. The Commission shall determine annually based on budgetary needs, the actual mileage rate to be applied to these energy sources for supplemental funding, subject to the maximum limitation above. Additional funds for the Endowment may be sought from other public or private sources in Canada and the United States.

The annual budget of the Commission shall be subject to review and approval by Seattle and British Columbia. All supplemental funding and expenditures shall be established by the annual budget and there shall be no annual carryover of unspent budgeted amounts, except for amounts for contracts authorized by British Columbia and Seattle in a previous budget process. Such budget may authorize expenditures both from the principal and interest earnings from the Fund.

The Commission shall make an annual report to British Columbia and Seattle by March 31 of each year. The records and accounts of the Commission shall be established and maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles subject to review and approval by British Columbia and Seattle, and such records and accounts shall be subject to audit at all times by British Columbia and/or Seattle.

ARTICLE III

It is the intent of the parties that a large majority of the expenditures from the Fund, averaged over a period of ten years, shall be made in British Columbia. Exceptions to this policy shall be made only with the unanimous concurrence of the Commission. No expenditures of the Fund shall be made outside of the Skagit River drainage north of Ross Dam.

ARTICLE IV

There is hereby established a Commission which shall consist of eight members, four of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor of Seattle and four by the Premier of British Columbia. Both the Mayor and the Premier shall endeavor to appoint one member from their respective governments, one member with financial experience, and one member representing the environmental or conservation interests of the Skagit Valley. Alternates may be appointed for each member of the Commission in the same manner as the members. Initially, terms of two of the four members appointed by both the Mayor and the Premier shall be for two years, and terms of the remaining two members appointed by the Mayor and the Premier shall be for Four years. Subsequently, all terms shall be for a period of four years. Members are subject to removal at the discretion of the authority who appointed them at any time. In the event a member does not complete a term, an alternate may do so.

The Commission shall elect chairpersons, one of whom shall have been appointed by the Mayor and one by the Premier, for a term of two years each. A quorum shall consist of at least six members of the Commission or their alternates, including always three appointed by the Premier and three by the Mayor. The affirmative vote of at least two members appointed by the Premier and two by the Mayor shall be required for any decision to be taken by the Commission. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept.

ARTICLE V

The Commission shall be a non-profit corporate entity and is to be operated without purpose of gain for its members, and any profit or other accretions to the Fund are to be used in promoting its objects. The Commission shall have all powers and capacity necessary and appropriate for the purposes of performing its functions under the agreement, including, but not by way of limitation, the following powers and capacity:

- (a) To acquire and dispose of real property;
- (b) To enter into contracts;
- (c) To sue or be sued in either Canada or the United States;
- (d) To invest the Endowment Funds in either or both United States and Canada;
- (e) To solicit, accept and use donations, grants, bequests, or devises intended for furthering the functions of the Endowment Fund; and
- (f) To adopt such rules of procedure as it deems desirable to enable it to perform the functions set forth in the agreement.

ARTICLE VI

It is the intent of the parties that expenditures from the Fund for administrative costs, consultants, travel and the like be kept to an absolute minimum. It is not the intent of the parties

that expenditures from the Fund replace or supplant operating budgets or responsibilities of public agencies, nor is it the intent that the Commission enter into obligations for maintenance projects on a continuing basis. It is agreed by the parties that Seattle and British Columbia shall provide staff support to the Commission on an as needed basis. The members shall receive no remuneration from the Fund; however, they may be paid reasonable per diem and travel expenses as authorized by the annual budget.

ARTICLE VII

It is intended that the Fund and the Commission shall not be subject to Federal, State, Provincial or local taxation in Canada or the United States.

APPENDIX E. – AGREEMENT REPORT: BRITISH COLUMBIA-SEATTLE AGREEMENT

SECTION 11: ENVIRONMENTAL ENDOWMENT FUND

This section establishes an Environmental Endowment Fund under terms more fully explained in Appendix D to the Agreement. The Appendix embodies flexible intent in an abbreviated form. Initially, the appointments to the Commission and the commencement of planning by that group, as set forth in Appendix D, may occur prior to funding under the Agreement and may be assisted by any funds from outside sources. Several other matters in Appendix D cover actions of the body once funding is established, and reflect specific intent of Seattle and British Columbia.

First, the funding of the Environmental Endowment is intended to continue even if other provisions of the Agreement are discontinued. The \$5 million endowment contributed by the parties over the first four years of Treaty coverage of the Agreement is intended to be used as a revolving fund, which can be used to acquire, restrict and resell crucial land parcels as well as to make permanent acquisitions or improvements of the types listed in Appendix D. The annual fund contributions in addition to the initial endowment are intended to be limited in three ways: (1) they constitute annual budget authorizations or limits, so that any time they are deemed excessive to the Environmental Endowment Fund needs, a smaller levy may be selected instead; (2) the annual limits are independent of any earlier years' expenditure or unspent authorization; and (3) if either the British Columbia power deliveries cease because of discontinuance or the Seven Mile power increment is not developed, the annual levy authorization will not extend to the power not delivered or developed. The annual budget and acquisition plans will be reviewable by both British Columbia and Seattle.

Second, while the area of coverage is the Skagit River Basin upstream of Ross Dam, significant restrictions already apply to the United States portions of that area. Consequently, it is expected and intended that over an extended period, the great majority of expenditures will be made on the Canadian side of the border. The parties anticipate, however, that in a given year the Fund may be focused on a few major acquisitions and that as a result expenditures in the United States may be relatively large.

Third, a reservoir grooming plan will be the first funding priority of the Environmental Endowment Fund. Esthetic stump removal will be a key feature of the grooming plan, but the

parties intend that total stump removal will be tempered by consideration of bird and fish habitat preservation. Other Fund uses, as described in Appendix D, are intended primarily to preserve the area and its pristine and wilderness values, while enhancing uses that are consistent with this emphasis or with present recreational uses of the area.

Fourth, it is intended that the Environmental Endowment Fund not be used extensively for capital-intensive projects or maintenance expenditures, which are intended to remain primarily the responsibility of the governments with jurisdiction over the lands in question. Among the detailed purposes and Fund uses listed in Appendix D to the Agreement, it is intended that a high priority be given to the establishment of a firm connection between North Cascades National Park in the United States and Manning Provincial Park in the Province of British Columbia, forming an International Park and providing an opportunity for a continuing international cooperative emphasis for the Board and staff of the Environmental Endowment Fund. The parties intend that staffing for the Fund will be provided by qualified City and Provincial staff they assign, to help maintain a model of direct, cooperative involvement by the parties.

Finally, the parties intend that the Environmental Endowment Fund should be a joint creature of the Province of British Columbia and the City of Seattle.