



HOPEMOUNTAINCENTRE
for outdoor learning

1st Quarter Report APRIL 1 – June 30, 2016

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1. Maintain a strong presence in the Skagit Valley and Park.

Birding events: The **Skagit Bird Blitz** in May had the highest participation numbers yet including several families with youngsters eager to learn about birding. **Manning Bird Blitz** was again a great success with approximately 60 participants.

Overall this season there are **6 public programs** offered within the watershed.

Summer Programming in the Skagit: Along with AJ Fedoruk five summer presentations for campers have been scheduled for July and August weekends at International Point.

Nlaka’pamux youth, ages 7 to 15 accompanied by parent chaperones and a First Nations cultural guide (and HMCOL guide) will tour Skagit Valley Provincial Park, including Chittenden Meadows and Ross Lake on August 17th, and also hike Skagit River Trail on September 16th.

2. Manning Park Interpretive Program

A third season began in June in collaboration with Manning Park Resort. For the first time the program received a wage subsidy grant.

3. Water testing

2015 Report completed and sent to SEEC in April. A Powerpoint presentation of 2015 results was given to the SEEC Technical Committee.

Volunteer recruitment for this summer’s testing program is underway. The testing will be done August 22-27th. Site selection is also being determined at this time.

4. Continue to enhance the Volunteer Program:

Volunteers continue to provide strong support to school programs, trail upgrades and maintenance, Black Bear education, and the Friends of the Skagit education program.

5. GO-GRIZZ Phone line

Reports as of June 30th include - 1 grizz sow and 3 cubs near Trail (out of area), 1 grizz reported in vicinity of Chilliwack Lake and a sighting on June 23rd at Missezula Lake (35 km north of Princeton). Sighting reports and maps are sent to Ministry of Environment and conservation groups.

6. Work with Student Conservation Association. Hope Mountain Centre provided recruitment assistance for Canadian youth and leaders through information sent to our entire email list of over 4000 as well as information to post-secondary institutes.

7. Successful delivery of the Grade 5 Watershed Program in May, Grade 3 Forest Ecology Program in May/June. Two Pre School Programs were also provided during this spring.

8. Fraser Cascade Mountain School

Grade 6 Skagit Camp, May 10, 11, 12 had 65 students from across SD78 camped overnight and took part in 4 teaching units. Kelly and Natalie taught in collaboration with park naturalist AJ Fedoruk. Another successful collaboration with several partners.

9. TRAILS continue to be a strong element for HMCOL.

A successful opening of the HBC trail of 1849 was held on the May long weekend. The Saturday had over 120 people at the east end of the trail near Tulameen and then the Sunday had about 100 at Peers creek western start of the trail near Hope. Sign up for this year's Backpack program across the entire trail was full the day after the trail opening events were completed.

10. Finances: A very secure year of finances in 2015 has carried over to 2016. By the end of the 1st quarter individual donations were up 3 times the amount of a year earlier. A local grant writer hired by HMC continues to pursue appropriate grants.

11. Friends of the Skagit.

Each Friday evening a group of volunteers meet and greet visitors to the Skagit Valley with information on garbage removal, bear safety and camping etiquette.

12. Hope Mountain Black Bear Committee

The Black Bear Committee continues education in the schools and through public presentations, the fruit gleaning program continues as well. Coordination with the Conservation Office Service is a strong component of our success. One sign of success is that as of May 1st this year the COS had not received one call from

Hope. All this education is paying off. More of a concern are cougars in the area which had been quite rare in the past. Education focused on other wildlife than Black Bears has become a regular part of the program.

13. National Aboriginal Day

Through a partnership with Boston Bar Band of Nlaka'pamux First Nation a hike was provided for youth in the Stein Valley.

14. Important Bird Area (IBA)

The Sumallo River/Skagit Valley has for some years been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Each IBA is assigned a “caretaker” who watches over, collects data and reports on changes or threats to the area’s habitat and bird population. After the previous caretaker recently stepped down, Scott Denkers of HMC has volunteered his time to fill the role of caretaker for the area. Scott will be providing an annual report to IBA program partners based on information collected at the Skagit and Manning Park Bird Blitzes, Breeding Bird Survey, water sampling and assessments through additional activities.