

## Restoring Salmon Habitat in the Lower Stave River



The **lower Stave River**, between the Ruskin Dam and the Fraser River in Mission BC, is a critically important salmon spawning and rearing channel that has recreational, economic, environmental and cultural importance. This area is within the traditional and reserve lands of the Kwantlen First Nation and has important cultural significance. The FVWC have been actively working to improve the Stave River watershed and salmon habitat with our community and partners over the last twenty years.

**The Challenge:** Due to fluctuating water levels and changes in the movement of gravel below the Ruskin dam, some sections of the Stave River have become dry and sections of the

riverbank are eroding. This negatively affects salmon habitat and is causing damage and loss of culturally important artifacts.

**What we are doing about it:** To address these challenges, we will restore flows to the dewatered channels and protect the sensitive riverbank. This will involve the use of heavy machinery such as excavators and articulated volvos.

**When are we doing this:** Work will begin mid September 2018 (~ Sept. 10-21<sup>st</sup>). This timing allows the restoration team the ability to restore the river channels during the driest, low flow period –enabling the greatest amount of restoration to be completed. This work will be completed right before the returning salmon migrate into the area. This means more salmon habitat will be available for their return! In (October/November) FVWC will host a community-planting event and welcome your support!

**Acknowledgement:** This project has been funded by Fish Wildlife Compensation Program, BC Hydro, National Wetlands Conservation Fund, TD FEF, and is in partnership with Kwantlen First Nation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Stave Valley Salmonid Enhancement Society, Fraser Valley Regional District and community volunteers.

**Want to learn more or get involved?** If you want to learn more about this project and/or the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, please visit our website at [www.fvwc.ca](http://www.fvwc.ca), or contact us at: [info@fvwc.ca](mailto:info@fvwc.ca) | 604-791-2235.