

Integrated Watershed Research Group  
University of Northern British Columbia  
3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

April 24, 2014

Wayne Salewski ,  
Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society,  
PO Box 1983,  
Vandernoof, BC  
V0J 3A0

Dear Wayne;

We, the members of the Integrated Watershed Research Group at UNBC, are writing to let you know about research we are planning to conduct over the course of the next four years in the Nechako River Basin. Some of our research may take place in the vicinity of Vanderhoof and we would like to take this opportunity to provide some information about our proposed work.

The Integrated Watershed Research Group (IWRG) was formed in 2012 by four UNBC Research Chairs Ellen Petticrew, Stephen Déry, Phil Owens and Margot Parkes (listed below) who share a common interest in watershed processes including the biophysical, chemical, ecological, community and health dynamics within watersheds. Since the IWRG formed we have been looking for opportunities to focus some about our work in the Nechako River Basin. In 2013 we submitted an application in response to some of the research needs identified by the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund Management Committee in their 2012 report. In March 2014 we received confirmation that funding had been granted, enabling us to commit to \$1M of research over the next four years in the Nechako River Basin, including \$0.5M of funding from the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund (NEEF) and \$0.5M from other sources secured by the IWRG.

This research will run from 2014-2017, and will include three themes: (i) water security and climate change, (ii) fine sediment sources and dynamics, and (iii) tools for integration in watershed management and governance. While our prime objective is to provide essential information that will increase our collective understanding of the main watershed processes and issues, an additional aspect about our work will include the exchange of knowledge with others in the watershed including the four orders of government, watershed-based organizations, and other groups interesting in sharing and enhancing understanding of the Nechako.

The Integrated Watershed Research group has worked collaboratively for several years on integrated watershed-based research with an emphasis on the Fraser River Basin and other northern BC watersheds including the Nechako River. This is the largest joint project for IWRG to date and we look forward to growing our research team, developing capacity for integrated watershed research and fostering outreach and interaction with others interested in the Nechako watershed.

If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact any of the individual researchers, or our research manager using the contacts below.

Sincerely,

Ellen Petticrew, Endowed Chair in Landscape Ecology,  
Stephen Déry, Canada Research Chair in Northern Hydrometeorology  
Philip Owens, Endowed Chair in Landscape Ecology  
Margot Parkes, Canada Research Chair in Health, Ecosystems and Society  
Barry Booth, Research Manager, IWRG. Email [Barry.Booth@unbc.ca](mailto:Barry.Booth@unbc.ca), Phone: 250-960-5433