

20 | Clapperton Creek

Irrigation Dam Removal



Clapperton Creek is a tributary of the Nicola River that ultimately empties into the river just downstream of Nicola Lake, Northeast of the town of Merritt, British Columbia. Running through Nt̓əkepmxc territory and the Lower Nicola Indian Band's Zoht #4, #5 and #14 Reserves, the creek is important spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, and Chinook and Coho salmon.



■ Why this project?

In the lower reach of Clapperton Creek, a collapsed irrigation dam acted as a seasonal, low-flow barrier to migrating fish, particularly juvenile salmon and steelhead. Removal of the dam and restoration of the site was identified as a priority project as some of the salmon and steelhead stocks in the area are species at risk.

■ Outcomes

In the summer of 2024, CWF partnered with the Lower Nicola Indian Band to remove the defunct irrigation dam which was replaced with two fish-passable rock weirs to enhance deep pool habitat in the stream while supporting fish passage for all species and life stages.

"The impact of this project to high-priority Fraser River (Lower Thompson) Chinook and Coho stocks is positive, and the results will increase and improve spawning areas in the previously habitat-limited area of Clapperton Creek. This work aligns with the habitat preservation and restoration priority for the Pacific Salmon Commission's Southern Fund Committee."

Sascha Bendt

Grant Program Manager | Pacific Salmon Commission

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$330,000

RESTORED ACCESS
TO HABITAT:

DISTANCE:

4.6 km

AREA:

27,600 m²

SPECIES THAT BENEFIT:



- CHINOOK SALMON
- COHO SALMON
- RAINBOW TROUT/
STEELHEAD
- MOUNTAIN
WHITEFISH

■ Acknowledgements

- Pacific Salmon Commission Southern Fund
- Lower Nicola Indian Band
- Also thanks to Scw'exmx Tribal Council and Nooaitch Indian Band for supporting watershed connectivity work in the Lower Nicola watershed



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