

Big Bar Landslide FN Leadership Panel

Background of FN Leadership involvement in the decision-making process

Last updated: July 17, 2019

July 2, 2019 - The need for strategic leadership panel(s) was identified during a meeting between Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) & Emergency Management BC (EMBC) in Vancouver BC, as they endeavored to design a unified command approach to actioning the Big Bar Landslide Incident.

Within the Strategic realm of this emergency response, a Federal, Provincial and a FN Leadership presence was identified as necessary.

July 8, 2019 - A FN Leadership Panel was assembled by DFO (Dale Michie), Eric Valdal (FLNRO) and Gord Sterritt, Executive Director, Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Association (UFFCA). The call was moderated by Marcel Shepert, Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS).

The FRAFS membership was used for initial contact as well as managing minutes, information and meeting notifications.

The Panel is called the Big Bar Landslide (BBL) FN Leadership Panel.

July 8, 2019 - The first conference call was attended by FN leaders throughout the Fraser Watershed and the Approach Area. Additional DFO, FLNRO leaders attended the call as did Incident Commanders (IC's).

The call included a review of the emergency response initiative which included safety and fish passage objectives.

The safety objective was identified as paramount and not questioned. As such, rock scaling to create a safe work zone was underway at the time of the first BBL FN Leadership Panel call.

The initial fish passage plan (put together by Incident Command Environmental Teams) and options therein were reviewed and discussed by leaders. Additional ideas and options were discussed or recommended.

July 9, 2019 - the BBL FN Leadership Panel met to review, discuss and support options through consensus.

Options presented to the Panel were deemed as feasible in the near term with the caveat that all other options would continue to be evaluated.

Options supported included Monitoring (option 1) & moving rocks into the river to create a natural fish-way (Options 2a,b,c). Consensus was achieved. Options are to proceed when the work area was safe and river conditions allow.

The outcomes of this call were communicated to the IC's and rest of the leadership team during the evening for scoping additional details and/or implementation.

July 11, 2019 - the BBL FN Leadership group met *via* conference call to discuss additional options to implement when conditions allow or if deemed necessary post monitoring of options 2 a, b, c.

Option 3 (pre-fabricated fish-way) was supported through consensus. Also supported was the potential to utilize FN community members and traditional methods to assist in fish passage detection (e.g. dip netting) or fish gathering for tagging.

Outcomes were communicated to IC's, the Environmental teams and strategic leadership.

BBL FN Leadership Panel calls will be scheduled as decisions are required.

For further information contact:

Gord Sterritt (UFFCA): gord.sterritt@upperfraser.ca

Dale Michie (DFO): dale.michie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Eric Valdal (FLNRO): eric.valdal@gov.bc.ca