



www.polarcoachmanflyfishers.com

Brian Smith, President
Polar Coachman Flyfishers
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December 1, 2019

To: Dustin Snyder, Vice President
Spruce City Wildlife Association (SCWA)
Prince George, BC

Re: Letter of Support re-funding application:
BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund

The Polar Coachman Flyfishers Club is both pleased and honoured to support the funding application of SCWA to your council for consideration with respect to the renovation and upgrade of the current hatchery facility.

The hatchery upgrade has become even more relevant with the BCTV News airing of November 30th which stated that scientists feel the chinook and sockeye runs are *threatened to extinction* by the effects of the Big Bar Slide of supposedly October 2018, and its late discovery of July 2019. This disaster has already seen grave repercussions on the Fraser north of the slide, affecting salmon runs on all of the major tributaries which support them, including First Nation peoples who rely on them for sustenance, as well as sport fishers. The full outcome of the slide's impact will be realized four to five years from now when this year's salmon progeny returns to spawn, and then for many generations of salmon thereafter. SCWA's hatchery upgrade should be a top priority in 2020 to get some remedial activity happening to counter the slide's effect on this year's run.

Our club members have conducted business and instructional meetings at the hatchery facility for about fifty years, and have contributed many volunteer labour hours in support of SCWA's fishery programs. The club also contributes financially to the well-being of the SCWA through membership dues.

It is our intention to continue to commit and support SCWA with approximately 100 hours of member volunteer labour and to continue to support the facility as and when needed for the foreseeable future.

The Polar Coachman Flyfishers Club Association is a registered Society incorporated 18th March 1992, the purpose of which "is to promote the enjoyment of fishing and to encourage conservation in the Province of British Columbia."

We are currently a group of forty-plus members and their families who meet twice monthly at the Spruce City Wildlife Association hatchery building on River Road in Prince George, BC. The club takes an active role in advocating, educating and leading its members, the public and our community in the pursuit of fly-fishing as a worthwhile hobby and pastime, as well as promoting the sport as a tourism net for the City of Prince George and surrounding areas.



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Recent club projects and ongoing activities include:

- installation and rehabilitation of coarse fish weirs at Hart Lake
- purchase and placement of fishing docks at Shane and Tory Lakes to remedy difficult public access and to protect and enhance sensitive shorelines at popular fishing spots
- supporting, volunteering and assisting ongoing “fry feeding” obligations at the Spruce City Wildlife Hatchery
- supporting and participating in SCWA annual “clean-up” days along River Road
- the ongoing teaching of fly-tying courses at the Art Gallery by members
- with BCWF sponsorship, organizing annual Fishing Forever days for disabled people on an “as needed” basis. In 2019, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) was sponsored.
- “as needed” letters of support for Steelhead Society of BC, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Spruce City Wildlife Association, BC Wildlife Association and Ministry of Environment in their ongoing endeavors to protect and enhance the fisheries resource in northern BC
- further club information and activities can be viewed at our website
www.polarcoachmanflyfishers.com

Sincerely

Brian Smith

Copies to Erich Franz, Blaine Powel