

January 29, 2004

Hugh J Monaghan
Executive Summary
Yukon River Panel
Box 20036
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 7A2

Dear Hugh:

Re: Final report for 2002 CRE-21-02 Salmon Habitat Signs at Fraser Falls

As you are aware, the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun has been supported by the Yukon River to erect signs at Fraser Falls.

The objectives of this project were to:

- 1) Inform river travelers/users about the presence of migrating Chinook salmon at Fraser Falls.
- 2) Provide NNDNFN Elders and citizens with an opportunity to inform other people about the importance of salmon as a critical food and cultural resource.
- 3) Provide an opportunity to use both English and Northern Tutchone on the signs, which is an education tool in itself
- 4) Promote stewardship, among NNDNFN citizens, of salmon and salmon habitat

Project Summary

To summarize the methods used to complete this project, Davis Loewen the previous contact person initiated the development of the signs. The signs were received after he left his position in the community. At this time, NND Lands staff, citizens and Elders deemed the signs inappropriate for the Fraser Falls location and have agreed that they would be more suitably placed at Janet Creek and Beaver River confluences of the Stewart River.

This decision was reached for several reasons, primarily that the signs read "Protect and preserve these freshwater tributaries" and there are no freshwater tributaries in the vicinity. Janet Creek and Beaver River are the closest tributaries to the Falls. In addition, the original signs to be placed at Fraser Falls were thought to be inappropriate due to their conspicuous physical appearance and unclear message.

See photo below of signs to be placed at Janet Creek and Beaver River at the confluences of the Stewart River.

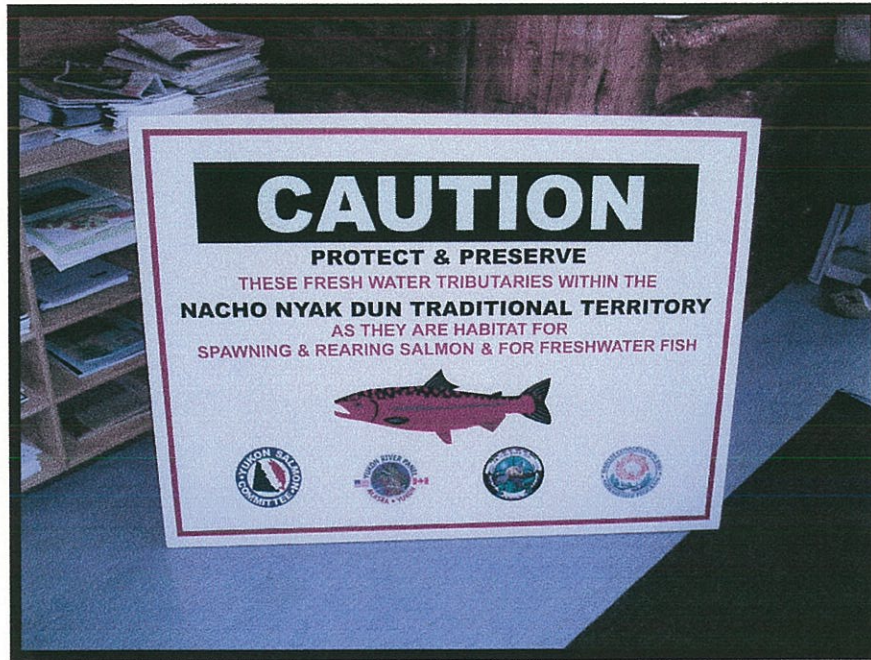
March 18 and would like your approval or comments on this date. It is a little later than expected; however, in light of Richard's schedule, my schedule, and the Yukon River Panel meetings in early March we feel this is an appropriate date. It will also allow people almost 2 months to plan to attend. With your approvals we will start the process of getting the word out on this. Please find an outline of the workshop attached. If you require more information or have any questions please let me know.

Thanks,
Pat

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As Fraser Falls is a pristine area frequented by local fishers and river paddlers and is a place of cultural significance, Chief Steven Buyck has suggested a plaque that a plaque be placed at Fraser Falls which communicates to travelers as well as to citizens the importance of the area. The language on this plaque verbalizes the cultural significance of this area. This idea was embraced by the staff of the Lands and Resources Department and Elders. The wording for this plaque is included as Attachment A.



Conclusions

A sign with appropriate and clear messaging has been created and will be erected at Fraser Falls in the Spring of 2004. Although the process to achieve the implementation of this project has been long, this process of discovery has been very valuable. I believe that we now have a “win/win” situation in which the original signs will be appropriately placed at salmon rearing tributaries and the plaque at Fraser Falls will be culturally appropriate while bearing significant information.

There is currently **\$1,435.18** remaining in the budget for this project. These funds will be used to create the plaque and sign placement. The Lands and Resources Department of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun will cover the additional costs of erecting the signs at all three locations.

Thank you for supporting this project and for your patience.

Joella Hogan
Northern Tutchone Habitat Steward

Attachment A

Welcome to Fraser Falls

This special area is the traditional fishing grounds for Northern Tutchone people. We ask that all visitors treat this area as if it were their home and that traditional values be respected.

Respect the land: always leave campsites clean and pack out whatever you bring in

Respect the water: always practice boat safety, take extra care when handling fuel around the river and use bio-degradable soap when cleaning

Respect the fish: take only what you need and when cleaning fish, please discard the fish guts into the middle of the river

Respect wildlife: practice safe hunting and ensure your safety and that of others when encountering wildlife

Respect the forests: ensure your campfire is completely out and be aware of forest fire hazards

Respect for people: you are not alone on this river, please ensure that we can all enjoy this river and the peace and quiet that Mother Nature has to offer

If you see any activities that concern you, please let us know.

Thanks to the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, the Yukon River Panel and the Yukon Salmon Committee