

# Environmental Considerations

## Fisheries and Aquatic Values

- The proposed design does not impact the Skeena River.
- Two areas that have historically acted as population sinks (juvenile fish can get in, but end up dying because they can't get out) will be removed during construction.
- The addition of a culvert at the west end will increase access for rearing and refuge habitat for juvenile fish in the spring.
- Decommissioning of the current road and replanting will restore normal riverside vegetation along the Skeena River.

## Wildlife Habitat:

- Mountain goat wintering areas have been identified within 2km of the construction site.
  - Their habitat use, behavior during the winter and kidding season, and tolerance to existing disturbances has been monitored for the last 8 months.
  - A mitigation plan is being developed that will ensure that construction activities do not disturb them any more than the current situation.
- A small amount of moose winter range in the area will be temporarily disturbed during construction, but replanting of vegetation after construction will restore the area to pre-construction conditions.
- Seasonal limits will be placed on site clearing and grubbing to ensure activities do not disturb nesting birds.
- Rare mature and old growth forests near the western portion of construction have been completely protected.

