







Innovative ideas implemented at Big Bar Landslide

Big Bar Incident Command has received over 100 potential solutions from industry, academics, technical specialists and members of the public, that could aid in the safe passage of salmon impacted by the landslide.

Salmon are critical to Indigenous communities in B.C. for food, social, and ceremonial needs. The number one priority is to restore the fish passage as soon as practical and assist the salmon in passing the obstruction.

The situation at the Big Bar landslide site is dynamic and submissions from industry, specialists and members of the public are continually being evaluated by experts in fish handling, capture and transport, health, hydrology and engineering, and innovation.

Each submission is reviewed in detail and placed into the following categories:

- Enhanced passage;
- natural passage;
- trap and transfer; and
- enhancement.

These categories provide the experts the opportunity to see the bigger picture and take aspects of one idea and merge it with another or create spin-off ideas.

A number of the ideas submitted included strategies already in progress. For example, there were many ideas on how to build fish ladders or other structures that would help the fish move up the slide. As well, there were suggestions for different rock moving techniques to create water pools that allow for natural passage. Both are informed strategies that the incident management team had implemented.

Many of the submissions offered long-term solutions to restore upstream salmon migration. While not possible at this time – due to circumstances such as waters levels – sections within the Unified Command team, along with external subject matter experts, are considering suggestions that included blasting the slide area. This will clear debris and allow for the reestablishment of a natural upstream fish passage for future migration.



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