

BIG BAR LANDSLIDE UPDATE

JULY 3, 2020

 Response Webpage

 BC River Forecast



ONGOING ONSITE OPERATIONS



PICTURED: High water levels at the work site required the relocation of equipment to higher ground.

This past week, work at the Big Bar landslide site was impacted by the high freshet flows from the region's rapidly melting snow packs. On June 27 and June 28, onsite operations on the West Beach were temporarily suspended due to flooding conditions. Working under an abundance of caution, the project team implemented additional measures in anticipation of the forecasted high water levels.

Beginning June 25, crews relocated all sensitive equipment to higher ground to safeguard against damage. The equipment included components of the Whooshh Passage Portal™ system. However, before water levels increased, crews were able to carry

out additional fine tuning of the Whooshh™ system. This work included the calibration of the fish tube sensors, testing, and installation of camera mounts where the fish exit the system.

The Province of BC's River Forecast Centre is predicting Fraser River water flows at Big Bar will soon be the highest recorded this year. As high water levels continue to impact many river systems throughout British Columbia, the team is monitoring the situation. Activities at Big Bar will resume once water levels subside and site conditions are deemed safe. In the meantime, the team is adjusting their work accordingly.

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PICTURED: Aerial shot shows the high water levels at the Big Bar landslide site, as levels reach historic highs in much of British Columbia.

MONITORING UPDATE

The high water levels, velocities and sediment concentrations of the Fraser River are appearing to delay the 2020 spring chinook migration. Few fish have been observed over the past week by the hydroacoustic stations and the radio tagging program has applied very few new tags compared to previous weeks.

Additionally, fish wheel operations have been temporarily paused to protect the equipment and to ensure operator safety.

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

The two chinook captured on June 21 were moved to a hatchery facility in Vanderhoof on June 29, in advance of receiving the DNA results. This move was in anticipation of high water conditions potentially impacting the French Bar Creek Holding Facility. Identification and monitoring of these fish will be ongoing and results will be shared through future information bulletins.