

**COWICHAN TRIBES/PROVINCE OF BC
KOKSILAH WATERSHED ENGAGEMENT**

**EXTERNAL
ENGAGEMENT
SUMMARY
REPORT**



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Prepared and designed by

 **MODUS**
from insight to impact



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2020, Cowichan Tribes and the Province of BC's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) entered into a Government-to-Government agreement to work in partnership to scope a long-term solution for sustainability in the Koksilah River, Xwulqw'selu Sto'lo, Watershed (the Watershed). The Partners are currently implementing three initiatives with the goal of determining a pathway to collaborative watershed management:

1. a hydrological assessment of the Watershed,
2. engagement with Cowichan Tribes members, and
3. engagement with the broader community members including rights holders and interest groups.

This report summarizes the key findings and recommendations from engagement with external community, rights holders and interest groups..

The objectives of engaging with external community members, rights holders and interest groups were to understand the varied interests and uses in the Watershed, surface the most urgent issues facing the Watershed and understand how people in the Watershed might work together towards a shared vision. To achieve these objectives, the project team conducted a two-step engagement process:

- 1. Interviews (Sept. 8-25, 2020)** - 13 interviews were conducted with a wide range of rights holders and interest groups living, working and operating in the Watershed. The results of these interviews were used to shape the questions and content of the public online questionnaire.
- 2. Public online questionnaire (October 13 - November 3, 2020)** - an online questionnaire provided all interested members of the public an opportunity to provide their input.

Overall, there was considerable alignment between rights holders and interest groups across both engagement activities on the key issues and concerns. Fluctuations in surface water levels between seasons, changes in weather pattern, and loss of mature trees were common observations of long-term changes in the Watershed as were concerns with groundwater quantity and quality, and wildlife and fish habitats. Forestry practices, linked with increased runoff and sedimentation, and more intensive water use from agricultural operations and urban development, were among the perceived causes for the challenges facing the Watershed. Many feared they would lose an emotional or spiritual connection to the natural environment in the Koksilah and their ability to participate in recreational activities would diminish while others were concerned for their loss of livelihood and inability to use water in their residence. Beyond the concerns and impacts related to the physical

changes in the Watershed, some expressed concern for a lack of accountability for those using more water than permitted by their license, and perceived bias in past decision-making, resulting in mistrust in government.

On the whole, those interviewed and surveyed value a holistic approach to watershed health, where the natural environment is healthy, functioning and resilient, residents can thrive, and economic endeavours can prosper. In addition, those engaged envision a future where an abundance of good quality water is available year-round for a variety of uses and there is a vision of respect for the natural world, as well as for the needs of all user groups. The ideal outcome of any water management process is hoped to be a harmonious community where all users are a part of solutions.

Across all engagement activities and interest groups, there is strong alignment in the overall principles that should guide collaboration. At its core, participants felt that this process should be founded in inclusivity and meaningful collaboration, where all groups are respected and their inputs are equitably evaluated. Trust and transparency around data procurement, process and partnerships was identified as a key principle. It was important to many participants that while the process should consider the needs of Watershed user groups, it should also be data-driven. Participants expressed a strong desire to see significant, measurable outcomes as a result of this process.

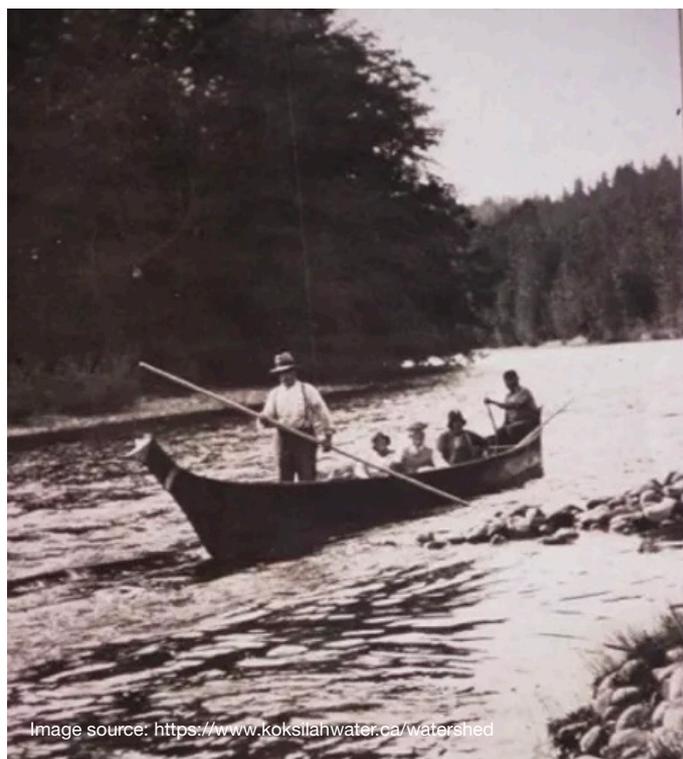


Image source: <https://www.koksilahwater.ca/watershed>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on what was heard through the engagement process, a future process should:



FOCUS ON THE WHOLE:

People care about the Watershed beyond just flow rates and water levels. Giving attention to the “whole system” through the development and implementation stages will be instrumental to addressing people’s core concerns.



BE DATA-DRIVEN:

Data will be key to dispel mis-or incomplete information and build trust between right holders and interest groups and with the process.



ENCOURAGE LISTENING AND LEARNING ACROSS DIFFERENCES:

Different groups hold different values towards the Watershed and misinformation can exacerbate scapegoating and alienation if not carefully managed. Any future process must be sensitive to these differences to ensure openness and two-way dialogue is nurtured.



EXPLORE THE APPLICATION OF VALUES:

If a process is to be inclusive of all rights holders and interest groups and their values, there needs to be a greater understanding of what these different values mean in practice. Any future process will need to grapple with how differing values may conflict when decisions need to be made and explore what compromises are available.



BE TRANSPARENT AND INSTILL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Past inaction and perceived influence of industry in decision-making has eroded trust in Crown government. Clear and consistent communications, openness in process and data, fair and equitable opportunities to participate, defining and committing to measurable outcomes and responsive leadership are ways to ensure transparency and accountability in the process.



Image source: <https://www.koksilahwater.ca/watershed>

INTRODUCTION

The Koksilah River, Xwulqw'selu Sto'lo, Watershed (the Watershed) supports over 1,100 water users, including irrigators, dairies, vineyards, and domestic households and regionally significant aquatic ecosystems and fish species, including steelhead, anadromous salmon species, and resident trout. In recent years, summer flow rates in the Watershed have been exceptionally low, threatening the viability of aquatic species and habitats.

In February 2020, Cowichan Tribes and the Province of BC's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) entered into a Government-to-Government agreement to work together in partnership to scope a long-term solution for sustainability in the Watershed. As part of this Agreement, Cowichan Tribes and FLNRORD are seeking input from key stakeholders, decision-makers, community leaders and watershed users and residents. This input, along with the results from hydrological assessment and engagement amongst Cowichan Tribes members, will inform the recommendations of the Water Sustainability Plan Scoping Steering Committee on the appropriate next steps for ensuring long-term water sustainability in the Watershed.

ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this phase of engagement with members of the broader community and interest holders is threefold:

1. To understand all the varied interests and uses in the Watershed;
2. To surface the most urgent issues facing the Watershed; and
3. To understand how we might work together towards a shared vision.

The following sections detail the findings from the engagement process with community members, rights holders and interest groups.

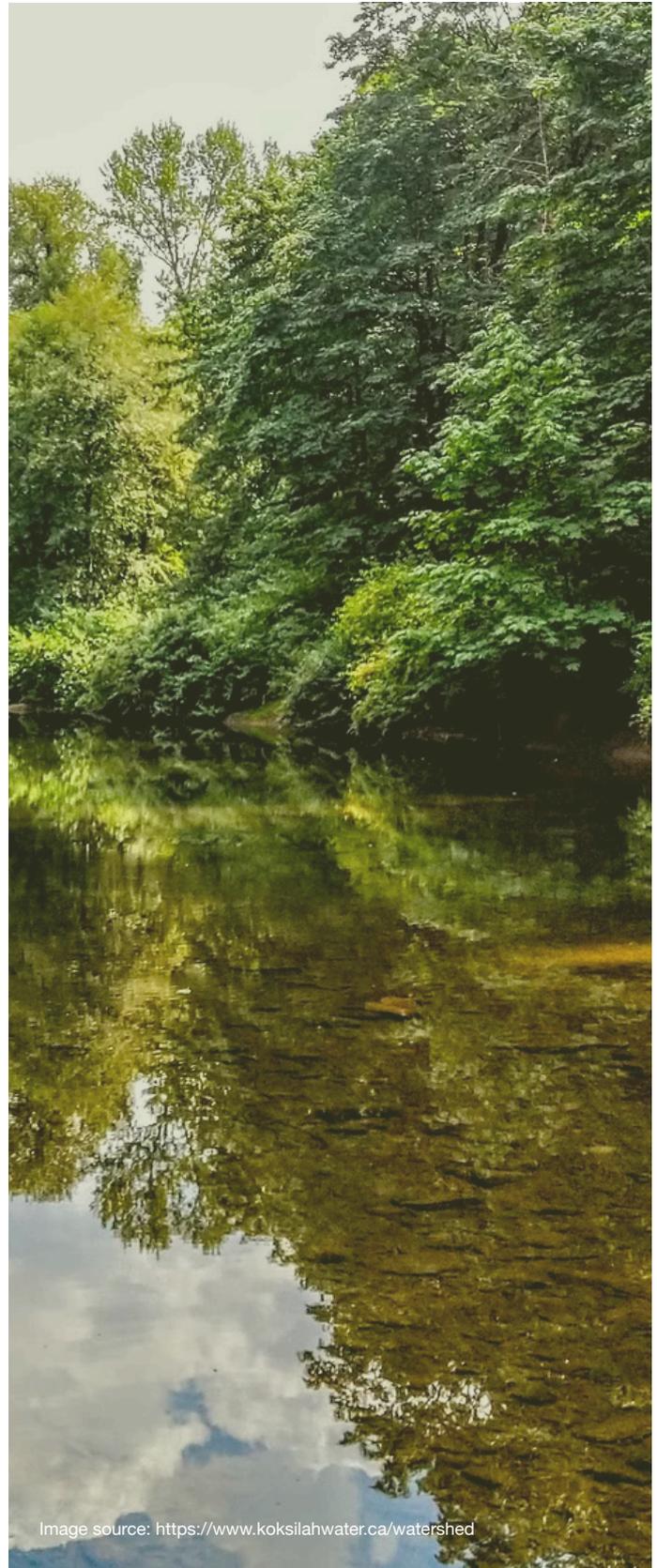


Image source: <https://www.koksilahwater.ca/watershed>

METHODOLOGY

To meet these engagement objectives, the project team (MODUS Planning, Design and Engagement in collaboration with the Outreach Working Group) conducted:

- 13 interviews between September 8 -25, 2020; and
- A public online questionnaire, open from October 13 - November 3, 2020

INTERVIEWS

The purpose of conducting the interest holder interviews was to gather in-depth perspectives from a wide range of interests and to identify further questions to explore with the public in the online survey.

To ensure we captured the full range of interests and perspectives related to the Watershed, we conducted a rights holder and interest group mapping session with members of the Outreach Working Group to identify the key interests and perspectives to be represented by the group of interviewees in this first activity. At the session, participants identified forestry, agriculture, local government, industry, residents, recreation, and environmental NGOs as the interests that should be represented in the initial interviews. Please note that the Cowichan Tribes were being engaged through an alternative component of the scoping project and as such, were not included in this exercise.

Specific groups and individuals from these interest areas were selected based on the following criteria:

	IMPACT Their impact on the Watershed from their activities in and surrounding the watershed
	IMPACTED How impacted they are by changes to watershed policy/regulation
	INFLUENCE Their influence on others, their connections and influence in the region
	DIVERSITY Representation from the widest range of perspectives and interests and geographies across the Watershed

In the end, 13 interviews were conducted representing all the participants outlined above.

Following the interviews, analysis of the results highlighted areas of consensus and divergence as well as knowledge gaps and topics needing further exploration. The project team, with feedback from the Outreach Working Group, adapted the questions in the online questionnaire to address knowledge gaps and areas for further exploration. The options provided for the close-ended questions reflected the diversity of opinions surfaced through the interviews.

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

The public online questionnaire featured 16 questions with a combination of close and open-ended questions. In total, 278 people responded to the questionnaire.

ENGAGEMENT TOPICS



Broadly speaking, both engagement activities asked participants about their perspectives on the following topics:

INTERESTS IN THE WATERSHED (Why do people care about the Watershed?)



ISSUES AND CONCERNS RELATING TO THE WATERSHED (What are their issues and concerns related to the Watershed?)



VISION FOR THE WATERSHED (What are people's hopes for the Watershed in the future?)



PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP (What values are most important for all interested groups to work together?)

Please see Appendix A and B for the verbatim questions asked in the interview and in the online questionnaire.

The results below are organized according to these high-level topics. As the questions asked differ between the interviews and the questionnaire, the results from each are presented separately under each topic. However, a summary of results for each topic is provided at the beginning of each section.

RESULTS



INTERESTS

Those who participated in the interview and survey expressed a strong affinity towards the Koksilah Watershed with many similar interests. Water from the Koksilah provides drinking water for many households and is essential for the livelihood of many. For others, there is a strong spiritual and cultural connection to the natural environments in the area where residents and visitors recreate and enjoy the forests and trails. It is clear that many of those who responded both live and work in the Koksilah, and concurrently hold multiple interests in the Watershed.

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

For some, the Watershed is a unique, natural environment providing an immense benefit for the ecosystem it lies within. The Watershed’s geographic orientation links the Sooke and Cowichan Watershed together. Combined with the fact that the Watershed is relatively undeveloped, it acts as a wildlife corridor from the southern part of Vancouver Island to the middle.

SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Some described a spiritual and emotional connection with the Watershed and its natural environments. The Watershed is “home”, with the forests, trails and waterways people’s backyard.

RECREATION

Some were avid hikers in the forests while others enjoyed swimming and paddling in the river and various tributaries.

INTERVIEW RESULTS

Participants were asked the questions, “How would you describe the importance of the Watershed?” and “How are you impacted by the changes to the Watershed?” Taken together, the responses shared by the interviewees illustrate the varied and multiple interests that individuals and groups hold. Participants held the following types of interests:

DOMESTIC USE

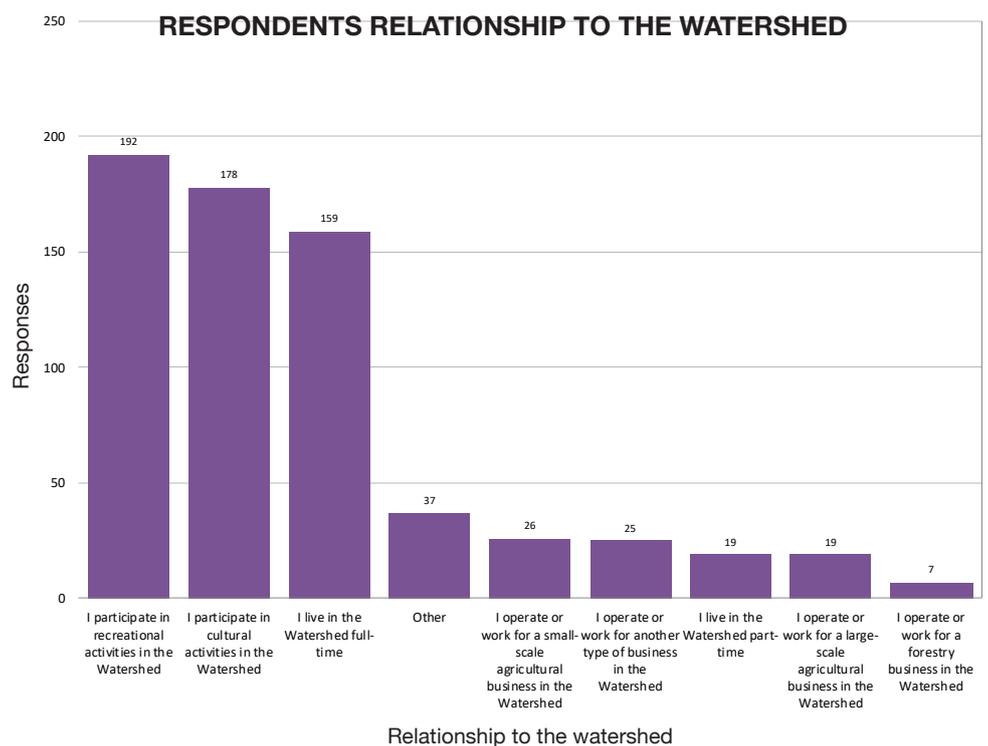
Interviewees valued the Koksilah as it is their primary source of drinking water and water for other domestic uses. Some of those interviewed operate hobby farms that also draw water from wells or directly from bodies of water in the Watershed.

COMMERCIAL USE

Some of those who were interviewed relied on the Koksilah for economic purposes. These were primarily commercial agricultural producers whose main source of income is from the sale of their farm products. Water from the Koksilah allows them to irrigate their fields and provide water for their livestock. Some discussed the future value of farm properties if water availability near their farms continues to be uncertain.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Questionnaire respondents were asked, “What is your relationship to the Watershed?” and were provided eight response options. Respondents were allowed to select multiple answers to this question. For example, a respondent could have selected both “I live in the Watershed full-time” and “I operate or work for a small-scale agricultural business in the Watershed”



Watershed”. This is reflective of the multiple relationships that many of those who live and work in the Watershed have with the Watershed. As such, there will be an overlap in themes and findings across respondent groups.

Overall, questionnaire respondents were most likely to participate in some sort of recreational activity in the Watershed (192), participate in cultural activities in the Watershed (178) or live in the Watershed full-time (159).

Almost 70% of respondents that live in the Watershed full-time and 60% of respondents that live there part-time participate in recreational activities in the Watershed. Over 85% of respondents that participate in cultural activities in the Watershed also participate in recreational activities. Over 85% of those who work or are employed in small-scale agriculture and almost 95% in large-scale agriculture also live in the Watershed full-time.



ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Of the issues and concerns raised by those interviewed and those who responded to the survey, fluctuations in surface water levels and weather pattern changes were most commonly observed, followed by more incidences of intense rainfall and flooding in the winter, and more extreme seasonal surface water variances. Many also observed the loss of mature trees, decreasing fish abundance and increasing development in the Watershed.

In their open ended comments participants demonstrated concern about the watershed as a whole system. Aspects of the Watershed that were commonly discussed included the health of trees, riparian areas, fish abundance, wildlife habitats, and water quality. Many attributed these concerns with the Watershed to forestry practices. Reduced groundwater retention, greater runoff and fluctuation in water levels, greater sedimentation and poorer water quality were all thought to be linked with forestry practices.

Many participants discussed excessive water use as another common concern. More intensive operations that utilize irrigation and more development in the Watershed have been deemed to place a high demand on the River's water. Questions were raised around the impacts of agriculture and urban development on water quality, namely pollution.

Anticipated impacts as a result of changes in the Watershed were mixed. Many feared they would lose an emotional or spiritual connection to the natural environment in the Koksilah and their ability to participate in recreational activities would diminish while some were concerned for their loss of livelihood and inability to use water in their residence.

INTERVIEW RESULTS

Participants were asked the questions, “What are the most urgent issues facing the Watershed?” and “What do you think is causing these issues?”. The section below describes their responses. The issues that interviewees expressed through the interviews have been categorized as observed changes, and concerns as a result of these observed changes.

OBSERVED CHANGES

SUMMER WATER LEVELS

It was generally agreed that flow rates and water levels in the summer are lower than in years previous. Some describe swimming holes that are no longer there, and wells that are drying up. Producers who grow hay described not being able to have as many cuts of hay in the growing season and having to take turns irrigating with their neighbouring farms. However, not all interviewees have been impacted in the same way. Some residents in the Glenora area reported their wells going dry predominantly in late fall into January and have had to rely on water delivery during the fall. Others have not had issues with water availability at all.

AMBIENT WATER TEMPERATURES

Some have noticed that ambient water temperatures have increased over the years. One individual has observed that the groundwater temperature has increased as well.

WINTER RAINFALL AND CHANGING OF WEATHER PATTERNS

Almost all participants discussed the more pronounced incidences of rainfall in the winter. Whereas winter weather patterns had previously brought more consistent and persistent rainfall, rainfall incidences now happen more sporadically but with more rain. Furthermore, some have observed less snowfall than in the past.

GREATER RUNOFF AND SEDIMENTATION

Coupled with greater fluctuations in rainfall, large flooding events and water runoff has been greater in recent years. This has resulted in greater sediment build up on lower areas of the Watershed.

MORE INTENSIVE WATER USERS

Many have observed that there are more wells being drilled, likely a result of more, and larger farms, and more residences in the middle and lower areas of the Watershed.

CONCERNS

LOSS OF LIVELIHOOD

Producers are concerned over the long-term viability of their operations. Producers rely on adequate water availability for their livelihoods. Many discussed the provincially-mandated water-use restriction in 2019 and expressed concern that summertime water restrictions would be the norm in the future. Several farmers estimated that the 3-week irrigation restriction resulted in a \$20,000 reduction in profit. Others estimated that the irrigation restriction caused a revenue loss of 2/3rd of their typical summer revenues.

Some of the interviewed producers had participated in voluntary irrigation scheduling, where groups of farmers drawing from the same water source take turns to irrigate their fields. While these efforts were praised by non-producers as a sign that producers were willing to “do their part”, some producers expressed concern that this would hurt their bottom line.

LACK OF SUPPORTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Of the producers interviewed, several had already tried developing alternative water conservation practices and were open to adopting new practices, including rainwater capture systems, intentionally unpaved roads, and water retention ponds. However, some water conservation measures can be expensive to install and operate and require monetary assistance in order to be feasible. Further, the process of water licensing is complicated and onerous and is perceived to have little benefit for users. Those who license their water feel that there is no support for them to “do the right thing”.

Some discussed alternative practices to adapt to low water levels in the summer, such as developing irrigation schedules. There was acknowledgement that different types of farm operations required different quantities of water. For example, vineyards likely require less water than dairy farms.

CLEARCUTTING AND OTHER CONCERNS WITH FORESTRY PRACTICES

Forestry operations, and in particular the practice of clearcutting was a source of great concern for many of the participants. According to some interviewees, the clearcutting of forests in the Watershed is a leading cause of water flow changes in the Koksilah River. Most stated that when trees are removed, the water cycle becomes unbalanced as precipitation is less readily retained. As a result, interviewees indicated that surface water was flowing in abundance into waterways in the winter and evaporating and being transpired quickly in the summer, leading to lack of groundwater recharge. The lack of tree cover is also believed to result in the snowpack melting quicker, contributing to greater runoff into the river.

Several interviewees noted that clear cutting activity is likely contributing to increased turbidity in the water as there was greater erosion due to lack of root systems and increased water flow down the mountainside. Further, this is believed to

result in increased sedimentation through runoff, which impacts the river’s hydrology in the lower areas of the Watershed and impacts fish habitats.

One resident cited (anecdotally) decreasing well water availability following the logging of a neighbouring property. Some residents also mentioned that wildlife have been more common in urban areas as they are being pushed out of the clear-cut area and down the mountain.

There was general frustration expressed by non-forestry industry participants that forestry practices are not well regulated and there is a perception by some that there are in fact incentives (government or financial) for clear cutting rather than other sustainable forestry practices.

EXCESSIVE WATER EXTRACTION

There was a general sense that water extraction from the river has increased over time. In previous decades, the Watershed was home to many small-scale agriculture operations that did not irrigate. Nowadays, agricultural operations in the Watershed are much larger in scale and are engaged in farming activities that require much more intensive water use. There was also a general sense that increased residential and industrial development in the lower parts of the Watershed has increased over the past decade. More wells are being drilled to provide water to these types of developments and are likely depleting the groundwater at a faster rate than the groundwater can recharge.

Other interviewees questioned whether too many water licenses were being given out by the Province, whether licenses were allowing users to draw too much water, and whether users were drawing more water than they were allocated in their license.

LACK OF A WATER RESERVOIR SYSTEM

Some interviewees believed that water in the Koksilah River is fairly plentiful overall and that the issues of high flows in the winter and low flows in the summer was a result of a lack of reservoir system. These interviewees believed that some sort of water storage structure/system, like a weir, could retain water in anticipation of low flow periods. Others suggested increasing rainwater capture as another option to storing water in the winter months.

FISH DEPLETION

Interviewees who have lived and worked in the Watershed for over 40 years have observed the decline of fish in the river. Whereas fish were plentiful in decades previous, participants expressed concern that sediment build-up in the lower areas of the river were destroying fish habitats and making it more difficult for fish to swim upriver. Furthermore, large winter floods have resulted in salmon fry being flushed out of the river beds.

POOR WATER QUALITY

Interviewees were concerned with the water quality in the river. Several discussed coliform contaminations in the river and

expressed concern over issues with the sewage outfall from Cowichan Bay and management of manure by farms along the Koksilah. Algal blooms have also been an issue, a phenomenon attributed to the release of phosphorus into the Watershed by forestry operations. Some interviewees discussed in order to take a truly holistic approach to resolving the issues in the Watershed, the Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan also needs to be updated.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

While all interest groups acknowledged that water conservation and watershed management was the responsibility of all users, there was little personal ownership taken. Interviewees in the agricultural field felt that they are often unfairly targeted and blamed for water shortages in the summer months. There have been incidents of harassment towards farmers as well as one incident of water pump sabotage. They were also concerned about bearing the brunt of the financial burden of a solution as a result of this.

Some felt that widespread education around water use among user groups would aid in alleviating negative perceptions of some groups.

MISTRUST OF GOVERNMENT

Some interviewees with agricultural interests indicated a mistrust of government bodies, specifically the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. There were concerns that government-funded reports from the 1980s and 1990s signalling declining surface water levels were being purposefully omitted in more recent reports, pointing to watershed mismanagement. Interviewees felt that this absence of comprehensive and historical data could be fuelling the negative sentiment towards agriculture and perpetuating the idea that water shortages have only started to occur more recently. Those in agriculture felt that government officials lacked a clear understanding of the Watershed and felt that overall there was a lack of robust, unbiased data demonstrating the relationship between water use and river water quality and quantity.

BUREAUCRATIC BARRIERS

Interviewees, primarily those with a financial relationship to the Watershed, indicated that the administrative rigors and paperwork associated with water conservation initiatives were significant barriers to implementation. Large amounts of complicated paperwork were deterrents for farmers who wish to license their water usage, with some interest groups citing the low level of water licensing among well

users as evidence. There were also criticisms that licensing water and attempting to put conservation measures in place came with more regulatory scrutiny, as they could be more easily identified and targeted for any water-related infractions.

It is onerous for farmers to do the right thing but not benefit to personally.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

To explore the issues and concerns with the public, questionnaire respondents were asked the following questions:

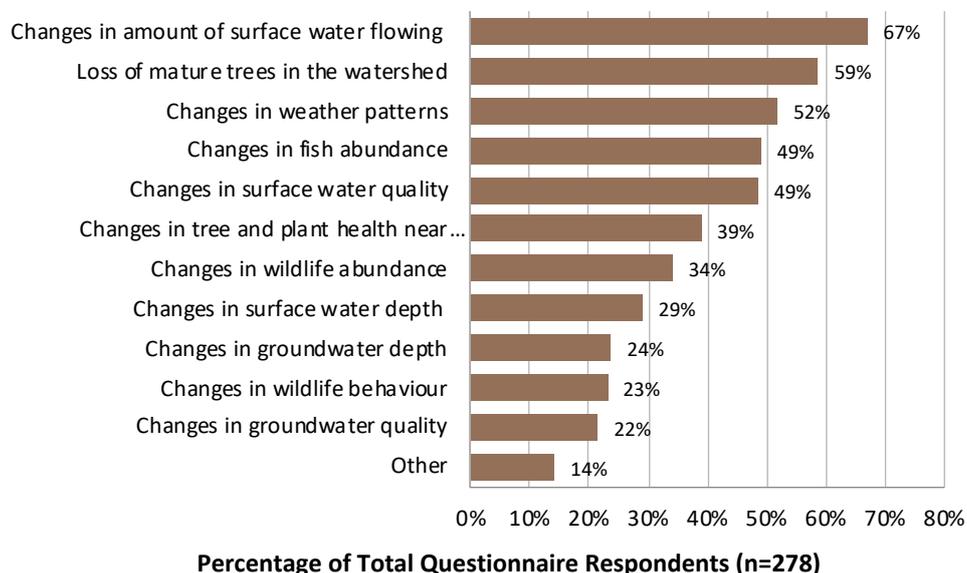
- What long-term changes have you observed in the Koksilah Watershed?
- How much of a concern are these changes for you?
- What other concerns do you have?
- If no action is taken, what impact will these changes to the Koksilah have on you?

LONG-TERM CHANGES

Overall, questionnaire respondents indicated most frequently that they observed changes in the amount of surface water flowing (67%) and loss of mature trees in the Watershed (59%). Changes in weather patterns were observed by over half of respondents (52%) and changes in fish abundance and surface water quality were observed by many others (49%).

Respondents who responded “Other” described increased garbage and pollution, increased flood risk, abundance of invasive species such as knotweed, and perceived impacts due to logging such as gravel deposits in waterways as other long-term changes observed.

LONG-TERM CHANGES OBSERVED IN THE KOKSILAH WATERSHED



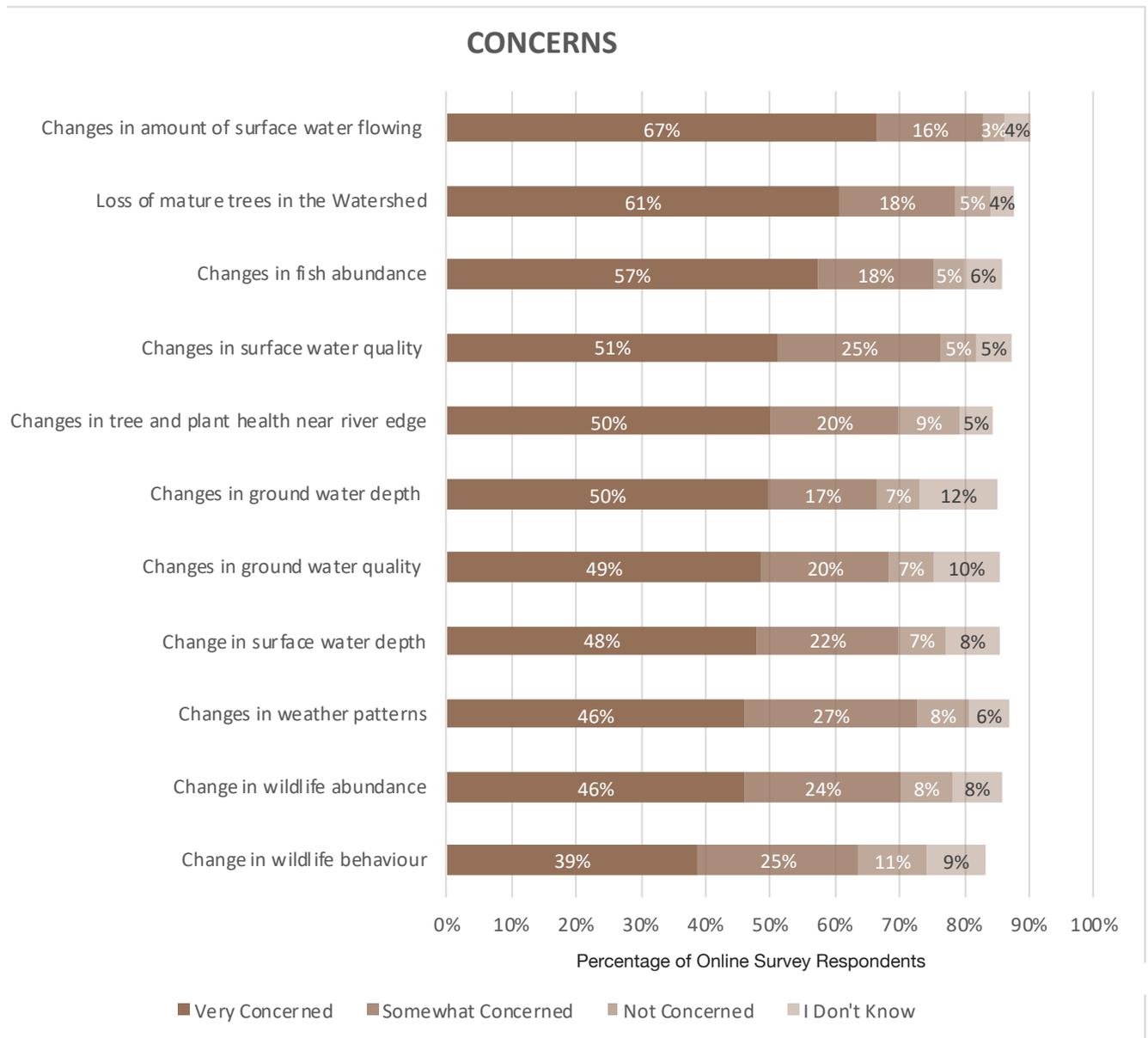
CONCERNS

Overall, respondents expressed a high level of concern for all the changes identified in the question. In particular, respondents were very concerned about changes in surface water flowing (67%), loss of mature trees (61%) and changes in fish abundance (57%).

Although many respondents indicated that they were very concerned about changes in wildlife behaviour (39%), this issue area also had the highest level of no concern (11%), indicating some differing perspectives among respondents. Respondents most often selected “I don’t know” regarding change in groundwater depth (12%) and quality (10%), potentially indicating a lack of knowledge on this topic.

The open-ended response to the question, “What other concerns do you have?” align with the results from the close-ended question. Many respondents expressed concern about:

- The negative impacts of logging in the watershed and related concerns, such as decreased groundwater retention, loss of wildlife habitat and changes in seasonal river flow. (Note: “clearcutting” was used frequently to describe logging practices).
- The impacts of agricultural practices, namely excessive amounts of water being used for irrigation, and agrochemical runoff contamination of ground and surface water.
- The impact of development, including increased demand on water sources, development construction being generally environmentally impactful, and urban expansion infringing on riparian ecosystems. Respondents who participated in recreational activities were also concerned about reduced recreational access to the river due to an increase in private properties.



IMPACTS OF CHANGES IN THE WATERSHED

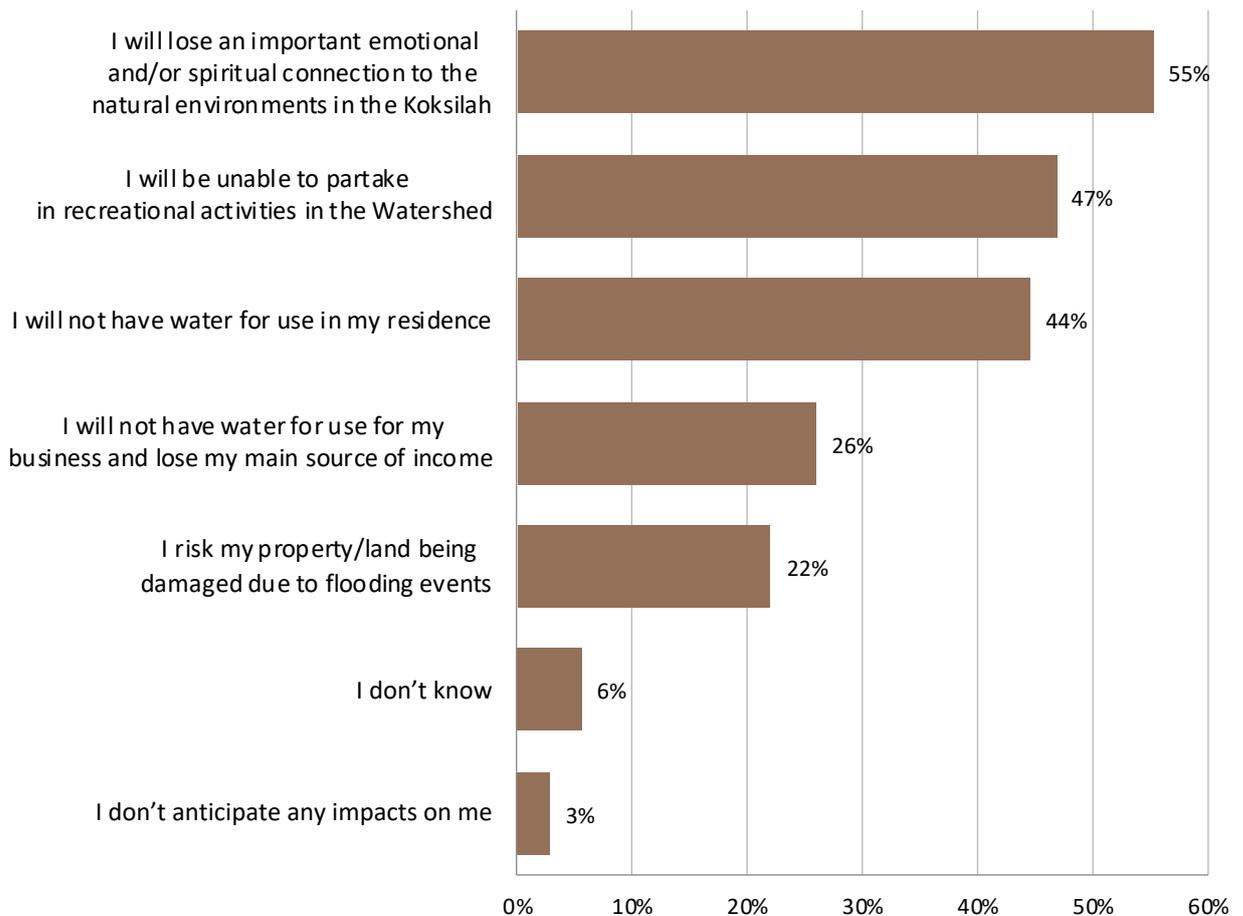
Many questionnaire respondents indicated that as a result of their concerns, they would lose an important emotional and/or spiritual connection to the natural environments in the Koksilah (55% of respondents), would be unable to partake in recreational activities in the Watershed (47%) or would not have water for use in their residence (44%).

Additional comments addressed the loss of fish, wildlife and habitats, loss of fish abundance, especially salmon, the loss of trees, increased property management regulations, and impacts on home gardens and food growing.

Some diverging perspectives on the anticipated impacts exist between respondent types that rely on the Watershed for their

livelihood and those that do not. For example, participants who operate or work for large and small-scale agricultural producers are much more likely to indicate the loss of their main source of income compared to other respondents. In contrast, the loss of income was least identified as an impact by those participating in cultural or recreational activities. Another example is how respondents perceived the risk of flooding events on property and land. In comparison to all other groups, large-scale agricultural producers and those operating or working in forestry were much more likely to indicate this was an anticipated impact.

OVERALL IMPACTS DUE TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE WATERSHED



Percentage of Total Questionnaire Respondents (n=278)



VISIONS

Adequate, long-term and high quality water supply was echoed across participants as a vision for water sustainability in the Koksilah. Many acknowledged that Watershed health extends past human wellbeing and must encompass the health of wildlife and vegetation. There is a vision for respect of the natural world, as well as for the needs of all user groups. Participants indicated that curbing water licensing, creating water retention systems and generally lowering water consumption would be necessary components to achieve this vision.

INTERVIEW RESULTS

Interviewees were asked for their visions for the Watershed. Some were prompted with a follow-up question encouraging them to imagine the Watershed 30 years into the future. Responses generally clustered in the following areas:

ADEQUATE, LONG-TERM WATER SUPPLY

Interviewees described a future where the supply of water was adequate year-round. Some described this concept as having enough water for their operations year-round, or not having the threat of water shut-downs occurring year after year. Others described adequate water levels as having wells able to provide water without “overdue strain”, as having aquifer levels not drop to unusable levels.

Many interviewees discussed having a water storage system as a potential solution to low summer flows, mitigate against the threat of water shut-downs, and winter floods. Excess water from the winter months could be captured in a storage system and released when needed during the summer months. The weir system that exists in the Cowichan Watershed was an oft-cited example of what could be possible for the Koksilah.

HEALTHY, FUNCTIONING ECOSYSTEMS

Some interviewees envisioned a future where ecosystems and habitats in the Watershed were restored to levels pre-dating the clear-cut logging that has occurred in the area. Large swimming pools teeming with fish, abundant wildlife, old-growth trees and a healthy riparian zone are all descriptions interviewees used to describe what a healthy and functioning ecosystem meant for them. Some expressed a strong desire for basic conservation ideas to be enforced. Others expressed a desire for more lands to be set aside for natural forests and for old-growth forests to be protected.

SUSTAINABLE USES

Interviewees envisioned a watershed where all the varied activities and uses in the Watershed would be allowed to

continue but only if their practices had a lighter impact on the natural environment. Agriculture, industry, forestry, outdoor recreation and ecotourism all have a role to play to ensure their impact on the environment is light and uses natural resources in the Watershed in a sustainable and renewable manner.

VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING

Several interviewees envisioned a future where value-added processing from forestry, agriculture and industry were a key contributor to a thriving local economy. Interviewees with this perspective posited that increased value-added processing would generate more jobs and revenue for the region's residents without needing to extract as many resources from the Watershed.

COMMUNITY-BASED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Many interest groups interviewed expressed a strong desire to participate in watershed management initiatives, but felt that there were few avenues to do so and even less political will to involve user groups. Interviewees indicated that many interest groups in the Watershed had skills and tools to offer, ranging from aquatic biology and water quality testing competencies to interest in creating conservation covenants. Many also indicated that greater ownership of the Watershed should be allocated to First Nations and their respective communities. Some interviewees felt that the Watershed would benefit from a citizen science program to build community knowledge.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS

Respondents were asked, “What does long-term water sustainability mean to you?”

HOLISTIC WATERSHED HEALTH

All respondents generally described holistic, whole watershed health as the meaning of long-term water sustainability. Key themes included healthy landscapes and wildlife, adequate groundwater and surface water in the river and wells, and the ability to maintain recreational uses. At its core, respondents indicated that long-term water sustainability hinges on balancing environmental, social, economic and First Nations needs. Many respondents simply stated “life” without any additional explanation or comment.

Respondents emphasized healthy, abundant wildlife when they spoke to holistic Watershed health and expressed the importance of ensuring the health of future generations.

ADEQUATE, QUALITY WATER SUPPLY

Many understand long-term water sustainability specifically as high quality, adequate quantities of water, with enough water for human users. Some respondents elaborated on this, suggesting that this could be achieved through reduced water consumption by users and restrictions on further water license distribution.

EQUITABLE, EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT

Collaborative management was at the heart of long-term water sustainability for respondents in forestry, large-scale agriculture, and other business types. These respondents desired science-based decision-making, equal respect for all water users, and creating a community plan for, long-term water sustainability. Large-scale agriculture respondents also emphasized maintaining trees.

BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

While some respondents described ways in which they could personally minimize water use, the majority took this as an opportunity to share ways in which others would conserve water. The most common responses were:

- Reduce agricultural water use
- Decrease logging in Watershed
- Slow/halt housing developments
- Introduce water storage systems
- Introduce tighter water usage restrictions and monitoring

Of those respondents who did describe measures that they would be willing to change or adopt in order to achieve long-term water sustainability, the majority spoke to measures related to residential water use across all user groups. Methods included generally limiting water use, installing low-flow taps and toilets, conservative garden and lawn watering and a shift towards greywater use. Some respondents also indicated that they would be willing to install a water collection basin and to leave some personal land undeveloped for conservation.

Recreational users indicated a willingness to halt or reduce recreational activity in the watershed if it could be beneficial. Those operating or working in small-scale agriculture indicated that they would be willing to pursue modified land use practices including less water intensive agriculture and modified irrigation programs.

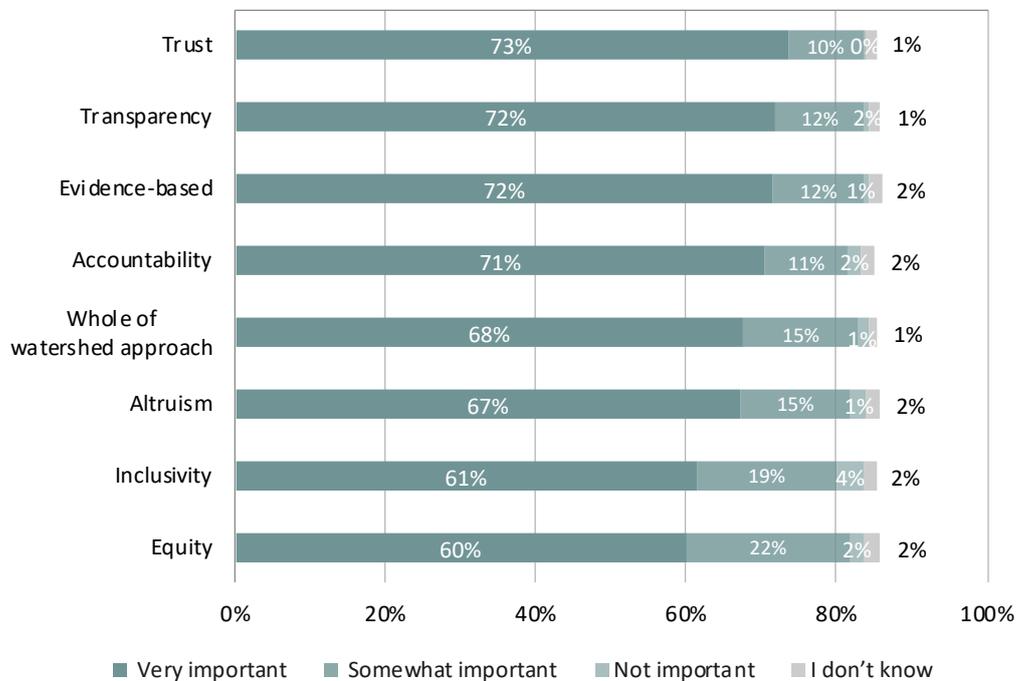


PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Across all engagement activities and interest groups, there is strong alignment in the overall principles that should guide collaboration. At its core, participants felt that this process should be founded in inclusivity and meaningful collaboration, where all groups are respected and their inputs are equitably evaluated. Trust and transparency around data procurement, process and partnerships was identified as a key principle. It was important to many participants that while the process should consider the needs of Watershed user groups, it should also be data-driven. Participants expressed a strong desire to see significant, measurable outcomes as a result of this process.

*Graph shows results as a percentage of total respondents. Not all participants responded to this question.

OVERALL PRINCIPLES FOR COLLABORATION



INTERVIEW RESULTS

Participants were asked the questions, “Who needs to be involved to achieve this vision?” and “What principles do you think should guide how we work together to get there?” Taken together, the responses shared by the interviewees illustrate a deep need for an integrated approach that respectfully accommodates various individuals and groups. The following section describes the principles that interviewees expressed:

HOLISTIC

Interviewees believed that the process had to be holistic in order to account for the diverse user groups and their unique needs. Taking this approach, no one interest would be prioritized and no user group marginalized at the expense of another. The economic, social and ecological integrity of the Watershed would be respected and balanced.

Some felt that the holistic nature of the process had to extend beyond the boundaries of the Koksilah Watershed and take external factors into account, including climate change and forestry practices adjacent to the upper Watershed.

INCLUSIVITY

Interviewees indicated that all user groups needed to be provided opportunities to conserve water based on their capacity. They also felt that each user group had knowledge and gifts to bring to the process and that space at the table was needed to accommodate a range of diverse voices. Interviewees desired greater recognition of different types of knowledge.

RESPECT AND EQUITY

Interviewees indicated that in addition to having space to contribute, the process and those involved needed to value all levels of contribution. User groups invited to share and participate needed to feel included and comfortable sharing their views. Those sharing their experiences and ideas need to feel truly heard, where listening is appreciative and empathetic.

TRANSPARENCY

Interviewees felt skeptical and wary of the data currently available and desired greater transparency around the amount of water being used and by whom. Many hoped for more easily accessible information about water use, the Watershed and available conservation measures (one-stop-shop for information).

SHARED VISION

Interviewees felt strongly that all user groups could collaborate effectively if there was an agreed upon shared vision and common goals. Interviewees were adamant that all rights holders and interest groups had to be involved to develop and achieve a shared vision.

INFORMED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

There was a strong desire from interviewees to ensure that decision-making was grounded in unbiased, evidence-based research. Some felt that the facts should come from a variety of sources to diminish bias, but all agreed on the importance of watershed management decisions being founded on facts. Further, interviewees indicated that this fact-based approach would also aid in building knowledge among interest groups. Interviewees felt that there were falsehoods circulating among user groups around water use and clearly communicating the facts could aid in debunking the myths.

Interviewees indicated that a stronger understanding of the cumulative impacts of water use would also be beneficial to the decision-making process.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Interviewees desired a stronger accountability from decision-makers and user groups, both in process and outcome. Many felt that a more robust mechanism to account for water usage was required to ensure responsible water extraction, mentioning that many user groups likely didn't know what their baseline well levels were to begin with. Interviewees desired the development of tracking metrics to establish long-range water quantity data. With greater, more equitable accountability, no groups bear a disproportionate burden.

SOLUTIONS-BASED

Interviewees showed frustration around lack of visible action; they are tired of numerous studies and want action. Many are open to changing practices to accommodate a new watershed reality, prohibiting current practices, interviewees would appreciate alternatives to sustain current businesses and communities.

ALTRUISM

Interviewees felt strongly that individuals and user groups in the Watershed had to be willing to give something up for the greater good. They felt that selflessness, in addition to openness towards other perspectives would facilitate authentic collaboration and partnerships.

Collaboration of this nature is already taking place amongst some farmers in the form of collective irrigation scheduling and voluntarily irrigation restrictions.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONDENTS

Respondents were asked, “We've heard in previous conversations that these are important values for any future collaboration efforts. How important are these values to you for working together in the future?”

Overall, the majority of respondents agreed that all of the principles addressed in the questionnaire were very important for future collaboration efforts. Trust, transparency and an evidence-based approach surfaced as the top three principles

most frequently selected as “very important”. There were no significant differences between user groups.

Respondents were also asked “What would help ensure your trust in the process?” Responses generally clustered under the following themes:

MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION

Respondents identified meaningful interest group collaboration founded in transparency and equity as a means to help ensure trust in the process. Respondents indicated a desire for open, timely invitations to participate in a variety of opportunities for public participation. Many also recommended a truly collaborative process that respects all inputs, regardless of affiliation. Ensuring collaboration with Cowichan Tribes/ First Nations was also mentioned, with some respondents highlighting the importance of allowing the process to be guided by Indigenous voices.

TRANSPARENCY

Respondents emphasized transparency in additional comments, calling for full disclosure around partnerships and affiliations to help ensure minimal bias and/or political influence.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Respondents also indicated a desire for easily accessible and understandable information in a variety of locations about the Watershed and associated programs and events. There was also a desire to dispel myths and pursue evidence-based decision-making.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Among respondents that participate in cultural activities, accountability was deemed the most important value for collaboration. This was echoed in the additional comments communicating frustration around lack of follow-through.

DATA-DRIVEN

Ensuring that the process is evidence-based was deemed most important as a value by small-scale agriculture respondents, as well as accountability. Additional comments from those in large-scale agriculture, highlighted the need for fairness and equity, minimizing preferential treatment for any one group and ensuring that the process is not biased towards any single interest group.

Ensuring that the process is evidence-based was deemed most important as a value for respondents in forestry. Transparency was only deemed somewhat important by these respondents.



Image source: <https://www.koksilahwater.ca/watershed>

NEXT STEPS

Topics of Interest

Overall, there was interest in learning more about all of the topics highlighted in the questionnaire, with the most interest in learning more about the relationship between forest retention, stand age, runoff and water levels (65%).

A small majority would like to participate in watershed conservation activities.

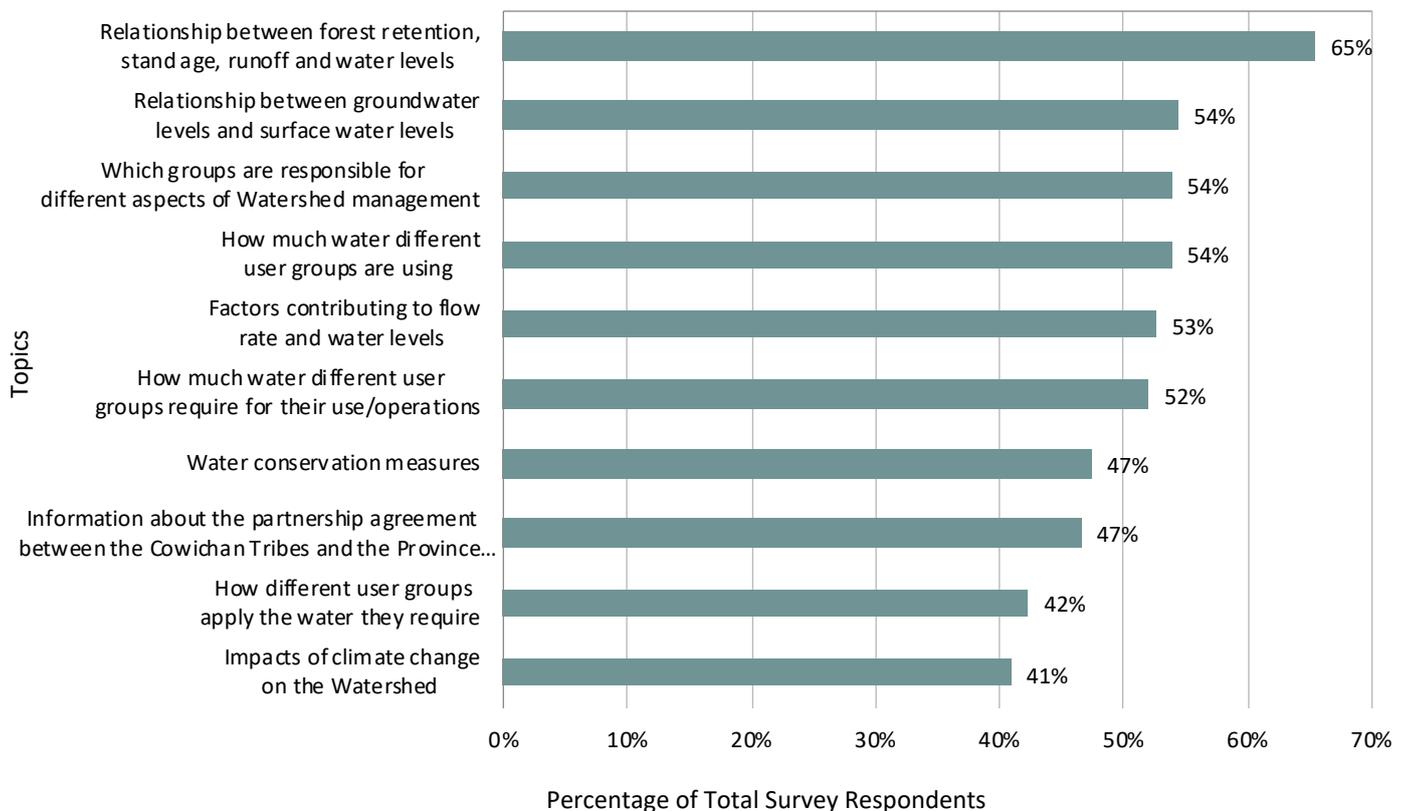
Few respondents would like to be a spokesperson for their community.

Participation Preference and Communication

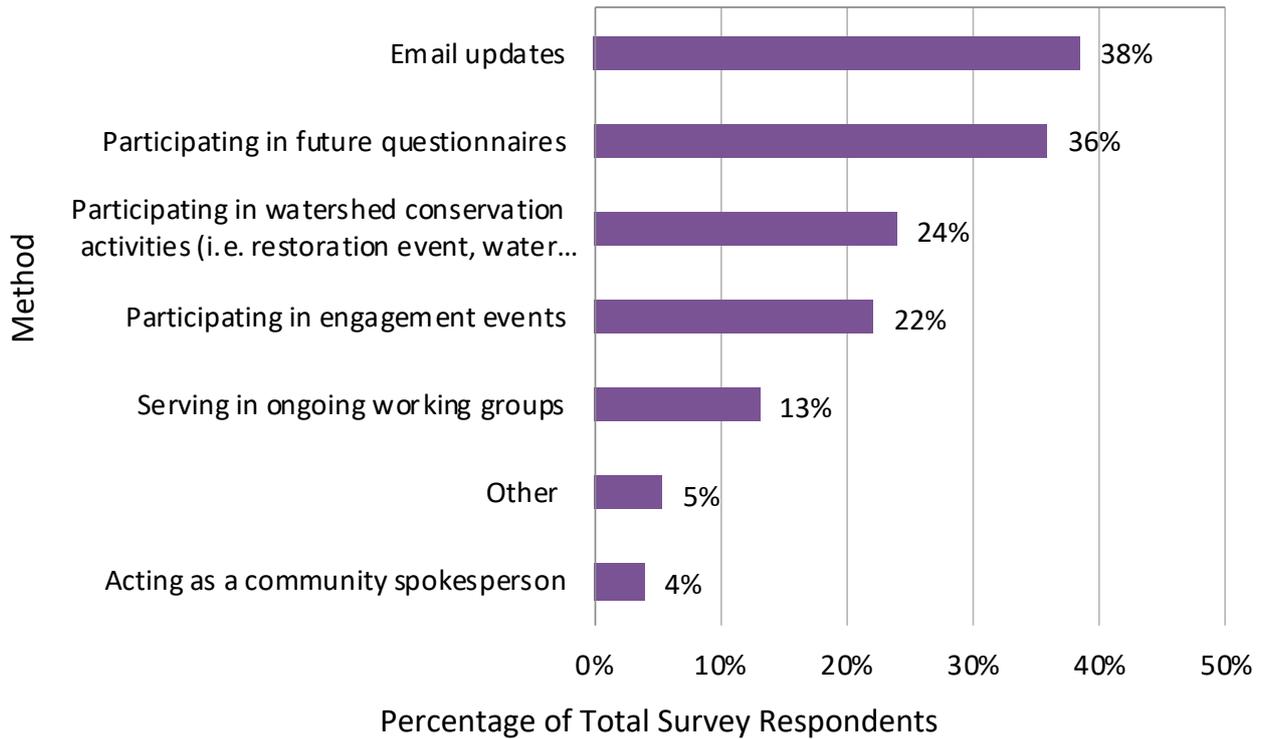
The majority of questionnaire participants would like to be involved in the future either through email updates or

The majority of participants obtain information about the watershed through email lists, traditional media and word of mouth.

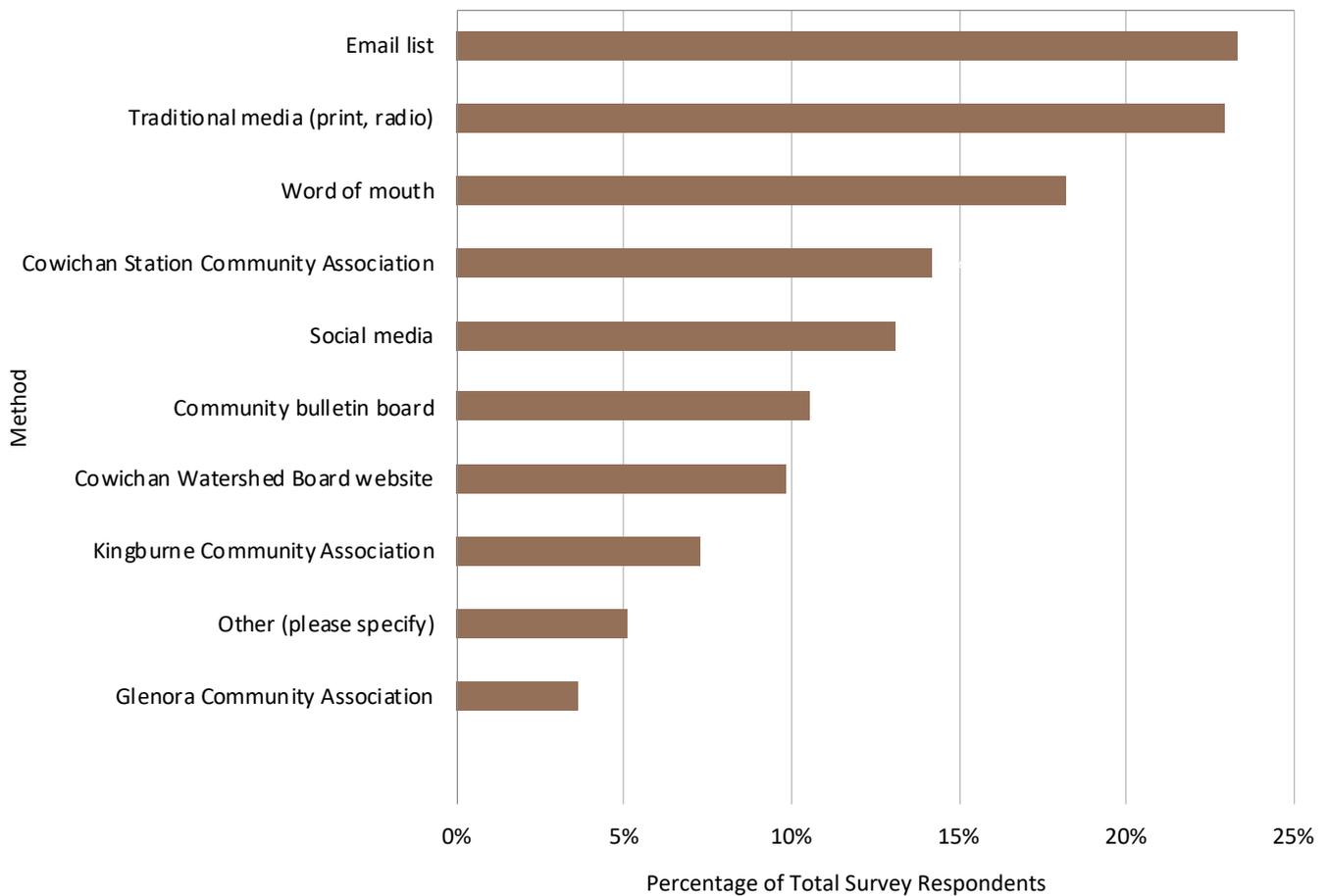
OVERALL TOPICS OF INTEREST



OVERALL FUTURE PARTICIPATION REFERENCE



OVERALL METHOD OF OBTAINING WATERSHED INFORMATION



RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are proposed to the Water Sustainability Plan Scoping Steering Committee to support the development of a Water Sustainability Planning Process:



FOCUS ON THE WHOLE

Although the starting point for this engagement process concerned low flow rates, it is abundantly clear that the watershed issues people have reported extend beyond water levels. As much as people envision a future

with adequate water supply for everyone, there is an equal if not greater desire to support a thriving natural environment on both water and land in the Watershed. Giving attention to the “whole system” will be instrumental to addressing people’s core concerns.



A DATA-DRIVEN PROCESS

There is a clear need for any future process to be driven by data and evidence. Data on the relationship between forest retention, stand age, runoff, and water levels, the relationship between groundwater and surface water

levels, the amount of water being used by different groups, and the factors contributing the flow rates are some early ideas on what would help dispel misinformation relating to the Watershed. In this context, misinformation (and/or incomplete information) will likely impact people’s perspectives on the Watershed and may result in the scapegoating of others in the process. A process that is driven by data and evidence is seen by many as a strategy to mitigate against misinformation and support trust-building within the process.



LISTENING AND LEARNING ACROSS DIFFERENCES

A future process needs to encourage listening and learning across different interest holders. There are distinctly different ways in which people value the Watershed, from having a

spiritual/emotional connection to the natural environment to relating to relying to the Watershed for their livelihood. Many

who took part in the process agreed that a future process should be inclusive of all perspectives and recognized that any future solution will not be successful if there was no broad buy-in from different groups. Yet, misinformation and/or incomplete information has seemingly resulted in differing perspectives on the root causes and challenges facing the Watershed. Certain groups, in particular agricultural producers, feel they are disproportionately held responsible for water changes and shortages in the Watershed and fear having an unfair burden placed upon them to conserve water. Sensitive process design where groups are brought together at strategic moments after trust has been built will be key to ensuring all voices are included while nurturing an environment where two-way dialogue can occur.



EXPLORING WHAT VALUES MEAN WHEN APPLIED

A future process will need to be able to draw out what various groups are tangibly willing to accommodate while holding true to their values. Through this engagement process,

many expressed a desire for the process to be “holistic” and include all different interest groups; yet most were unable to express tangibly how they might accommodate others with different values and perspectives regarding the Watershed, let alone fully understanding what those other values might mean in practice. Any future process will need to grapple with how varying values may conflict when decisions need to be made.



TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

Underlying all actions in any future process must be a strong principle of transparency and accountability. Past government (in) action and perceived influence of “big industry” in decision-making has eroded trust

in the process. Transparency, through clear and consistent communications, openness in process and data, and fair, equitable opportunities to participate as well as accountability through measurable outcomes and responsive leadership are some strategies to build trust amongst the community.

CLOSING REMARKS

The project partners would like to acknowledge and thank all participants who were involved in this initiative. We have heard your perspectives and now better understand where future efforts may be focused and how to engage with you as the project progresses.

This report will be used by the project Steering Committee to assess options for a sustainable water management framework in the Watershed - one where there is a balance between a healthy aquatic habitat and a vibrant community.

To learn more about the project and find contact information, please refer to the project website at www.koksilahwater.ca

APPENDIX A - INTERVIEW GUIDE



INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introductions

1. How would you describe your relationship to the Koksilah Watershed?
 - a. Probe: Do you live near it? Does your business rely on it? Do you use the watershed recreationally? If so, what type of business/operation do you run? Do you draw water from the surface or from groundwater sources?
2. How would you describe the importance of the Watershed?
 - a. Probe: Why do you care about the Watershed? Financial reasons? Environmental reasons? Cultural reasons?
3. How are you impacted by changes to the Watershed or how it is managed?

Issues and Concerns

4. What are the most urgent issues facing the Watershed?
5. What do you think is causing these issues?

Vision

6. What is your vision for the Watershed?
 - a. Probe: Imagine it's 2050, how would you describe what the Watershed looks like? What is it like to live / work / play there?
 - b. Probe: What should we be working towards?

Principles for collaboration/partnership

7. Who needs to be involved to achieve this vision?
8. What principles do you think should guide how we work together to get there?
 - a. Probe: What factors/characteristics/traits need to be considered when discussing how we collaborate and how we make decisions?
 - b. Probe: Example: transparency, inclusivity, whole of watershed approach, evidence-based
9. At the end of the process, what would tell us it had been a success?
10. How would you like to be involved in future engagement on this project?
11. Who else do you think we should talk to in the process?

Wrap up

12. Is there anything else you would like to add?

APPENDIX B - ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE



Introduction

The Government of BC will not collect, use, or disclose personal information using SurveyMonkey. Please be aware however that IP addresses are collected by SurveyMonkey itself, and these IP addresses and other information collected will be stored on SurveyMonkey's servers located outside of Canada. This survey is voluntary and a response is encouraged, not required.

Please do not provide any third-party information (i.e. talk about others) in your responses to the survey.

The Koksilah River, Xwulqw'selu Sto'lo, Watershed lies within the traditional territories of Cowichan Tribes, Malahat Nation and other First Nations. Click [here](#) for a detailed map of the Watershed.

The Watershed is regionally significant culturally, economically and ecologically. It supports many fish species, and provides water to over 1,100 users, including vineyards, dairy producers, and domestic households.



As you may be aware, summer flows in the Koksilah River have been exceptionally low in recent years at times when demand for water is the greatest. To address these issues, the Cowichan Tribes and the Province of B.C. entered into a Government to Government partnership agreement to collaborate and jointly oversee management of the Koksilah Watershed in February 2020. The purpose of this partnership is to ensure long-term water sustainability in the Watershed.

We are in the early stages of this partnership and are exploring ways to plan to manage the Koksilah with you and others living and working in the Watershed.

Help us understand the varied interests and issues facing the watershed and how we all might work together moving forward. The following questionnaire should take about 10 minutes of your time

Your input, along with the results from a hydrological assessment, and engagement amongst Cowichan Tribes members will inform the development of recommendations on a process for developing a long-term management framework and strategies to ensure a healthy watershed and vibrant community.

Your responses are voluntary and will be confidential. Responses will not be identified by individual.

Please visit www.koksilahwater.ca to learn more about this process.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

Relationship to the Koksilah

1. What is your relationship to the Watershed? (Select all that apply)
- I live in the Watershed full-time
 - I live in the Watershed part-time
 - I participate in cultural activities in the Watershed
 - I participate in recreational activities in the Watershed
 - I operate or work for a small-scale agricultural business in the Watershed (less than or equal to 10 acres of farmed land)
 - I operate or work for a large-scale agricultural business in the Watershed (more than 10 acres of farmed land)
 - I operate or work for a forestry business in the Watershed
 - I operate or work for another type of business in the Watershed
 - Other (Please specify)

Concerns

2. What long-term changes have you observed in the Koksilah Watershed? (Select all that apply)
- Changes in surface water quality (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)
 - Changes in amount of surface water flowing (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)
 - Changes in groundwater quality (i.e. wells)
 - Changes in groundwater depth (i.e. wells)
 - Changes in surface water depth (i.e. depth of swimming pools)
 - Changes in wildlife behavior
 - Changes in wildlife abundance
 - Changes in fish abundance
 - Changes in tree and plant health near river edge (i.e. riparian zone health)
 - Loss of mature trees in the watershed
 - Changes in weather patterns
 - Other (Please specify)

3. How much of a concern are these changes for you?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	I don't know
Changes in surface water quality (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in amount of surface water flowing (i.e. lakes, rivers, streams, creeks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in ground water quality (i.e. wells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in ground water depth (i.e. wells)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in surface water depth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in wildlife behavior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change in wildlife abundance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in fish abundance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in tree and plant health near river edge (ie. riparian zone)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of mature trees in the Watershed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes in weather patterns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What other concerns do you have? Please take care not to provide any personal information about yourself or others when providing your answer. [open-ended]
5. If no action is taken, what impact will these changes to the Koksilah have on you? [select all that apply]
- I will not have water for use in my residence
 - I will not have water for use for my business and lose my main source of income
 - I risk my property/land being damaged due to flooding events
 - I will lose an important emotional and/or spiritual connection to the natural environments in the Koksilah
 - I will be unable to partake in recreational activities in the Watershed
 - I don't anticipate any impacts on me
 - I don't know
 - Other (Please specify)

The Future of the Koksilah

Ensuring the resilience of the Koksilah Watershed requires new ways of working together. In February 2020, the Cowichan Tribes and the Province of B.C. entered into a Government to Government partnership agreement to collaborate and jointly oversee management of the Koksilah Watershed.

As we move forward with this partnership, we will be exploring ways to manage the Koksilah with you and others living and working in the Watershed.

Help us understand what values are most important to you as we work together towards long-term water sustainability in the Watershed.

6. What does long-term water sustainability mean to you?
7. We've heard in previous conversations that these are important values for any future collaboration efforts. How important are these values to you for working together in the future? [Likert-matrix scale; randomize options]

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	I don't know
Transparency: <i>Information around process, decisions and actions are openly available and easily accessible.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusivity: <i>Ensuring that all individuals feel respected, accepted and valued.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole of watershed approach: <i>Balancing healthy ecological, economic, and cultural/social conditions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence-based: <i>Drawing on objective research to inform decision-making.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accountability: <i>Honouring commitments to the watershed, collaborators and stakeholders and being answerable to our actions.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust: <i>Having confidence in the fairness and reliability of a person or organization.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	I don't know
Equity: Ensuring that all participants have access to equal opportunities and that all are treated fairly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Altruism: All those involved in the process are thinking beyond their self-interests and consider the needs of the greater good in their decision-making	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. What would help ensure your trust in the process? Please take care not to provide any personal information about yourself or others when providing your answer. [open-ended]
9. As we learn how to work together, we recognize there may be conflicting interests in how we want to manage the Watershed. What land/water management practices are you willing to change or adopt in order to achieve long-term water sustainability? Please take care not to provide any personal information about yourself or others when providing your answer. [open-ended]

Participation

10. What information do you want to know more about? [Select all that apply; randomize options]
- Relationship between forest retention, stand age, runoff and water levels
 - Relationship between groundwater levels and surface water levels
 - Factors contributing to flow rate and water levels
 - How much water different user groups require for their use/operations
 - How much water different user groups are using
 - How different user groups apply the water they require
 - Water conservation measures
 - Impacts of climate change on the Watershed
 - Information about the partnership agreement between the Cowichan Tribes and the Province of B.C.
 - Which groups are responsible for different aspects of Watershed management (e.g. Provincial government, local government, First Nations...etc.)
 - Other (Please specify)
11. How do you want to be involved in watershed planning and management? (Select all that apply)
- Email updates
 - Participating in future questionnaires
 - Participating in engagement events
 - Serving in ongoing working groups
 - Acting as a community spokesperson
 - Participating in watershed conservation activities (i.e. restoration event, water monitoring)
 - Other (Please specify)

Help Us Better Understand the Results

To help us understand how representative this survey response is, we are collecting demographic information. This information will remain confidential and will only be used to Please help us out by responding to the following:

12. Please indicate your age group:
- Under 18 years
 - 18 to 24 years
 - 25 to 34 years
 - 35 to 44 years
 - 45 to 54 years
 - 55 to 65 years
 - 65 and older
 - Prefer not to answer
13. Which part of the Watershed do you live closest to? [drop-down list of areas in the Watershed]
- a. Kelvin Creek
 - b. Patrolas Creek
 - c. Glenora Creek
 - d. Heather Brook Creek
 - e. Busy Place (Sh'hwuykwselu) Creek
 - f. Upper Koksilah (above the trestle)
 - g. Cowichan Station
 - h. Lower Koksilah/Cowichan Bay
 - i. Other (Please specify)
 - j. I don't know
14. Which part of the Watershed do you work/operate a business closest to? [drop-down list of areas in the Watershed]
- a. Kelvin Creek
 - b. Patrolas Creek
 - c. Glenora Creek
 - d. Heather Brook Creek
 - e. Busy Place (Sh'hwuykwselu) Creek
 - f. Upper Koksilah (above the trestle)
 - g. Cowichan Station
 - h. Lower Koksilah/Cowichan Bay
 - i. Other (Please specify)
 - j. I don't know
15. Do you identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis?
- First Nations
 - Inuit
 - Metis
 - I do not identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis
 - Prefer not to answer
16. Where do you obtain information about Watershed health, events and related activities? (Select all that apply)
- Email list (expand if selected; open ended)
 - Traditional media (print, radio)
 - Social media (expand if selected; open ended)
 - Community bulletin board
 - Word of mouth
 - Cowichan Watershed Board website
 - Glenora Community Association
 - Cowichan Station Community Association
 - Kingburne Community Association
 - Other (Please specify)

Thank you for taking the time to talk with us today. Keep your eyes on the project website for the upcoming public survey and for the results of these interviews along with the survey.

