



Minutes

Village of Tahsis

Meeting	Committee of the Whole
Date	July 2, 2024
Time	1:00 p.m.
Place	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present	Mayor Martin Davis	
	Councillor Sarah Fowler	
	Councillor Cheryl Northcott	
	Councillor Brenda Lenahan	by video
	Councillor Ryan Moore	by video

Staff	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer	by video
	Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance	by video
	Janet StDenis Corporate Services Manager	
	Paige Sawyer, Economic Development Coordinator	

Guests	Eric Angel, General Manager, Salmon Parks Stewardship Society	
	Robin Yuen, Salmon Parks Stewardship Society	
	Gloria Maquinna, Salmon Parks Stewardship Society	
	Azar Kamran, Administrator, CEO, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation	by video

Public	1 member of the public.
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Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/ Muchalaht territory.

Introduction of Late Items

None

C. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda

Northcott: COW 0063/2024

THAT the Agenda for the July 2, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**M. New
Business**

- 1 **Presentation: Salmon Parks Orientation and Community Forest (Mowachaht/ Muchalaht First Nation representation).**
(presentation attached)

Northcott: COW 0064/2024

THAT this presentation be received.

CARRIED

Eric Angel, General Manager of Salmon Park Stewardship presented an overview of the Salmon Parks Stewardship Society. Topics discussed included: their vision, mandate, the Community Advisory Group, funding, research studies, engagement with external stakeholder, their partners and their next steps.

Council raised questions regarding the inclusion of various watersheds in the mapping of salmon parks boundaries, tree planting, fish farms, membership in the Community Advisory Group and opportunities for collaboration.

Staff emphasized the importance on building alliances with the sport fishing sector.

Northcott: COW 0065/2024

THAT public input be permitted.

CARRIED

A member of the public raised concerns regarding boundaries of the Salmon Parks and the impact on private property ownership. The response was that the Salmon Parks areas do not include land that is held in fee simple or other types of private property ownership interest.

Adjournment

Northcott: COW 0066/2024

THAT the meeting adjourn at 2:15

CARRIED

Certified correct this
6th day of August 2024



Corporate Officer



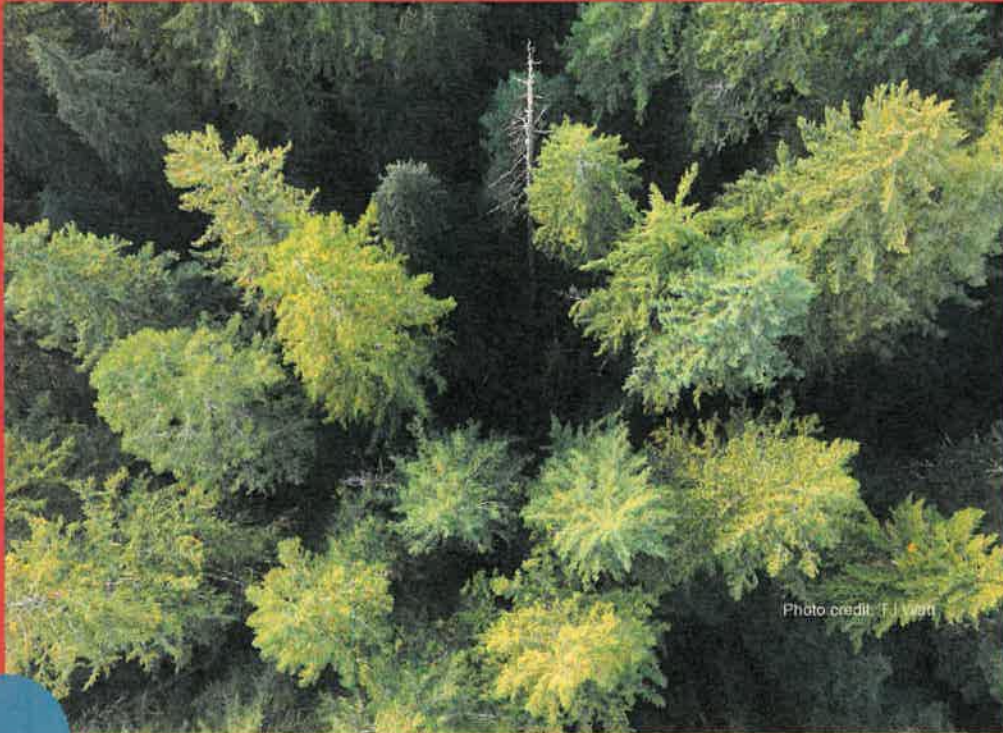
SALMON PARKS

Eric Angel

General Manager

Salmon Parks Stewardship Society

Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation



OUR VISION

- Protect key salmon watersheds
- “Let Nature Take Its Course” to facilitate natural watershed recovery processes
- Secure the establishment of Salmon Parks with legal recognition by federal and provincial governments
- Develop supporting governance and management structure based on Nuu-chah-nulth laws



John Amos
talks about the
importance of
salmon - for his
family and his
community.



Photo credit: TJ Watt



Photo credit: TJ Watt

OVERVIEW

- Declaration
- Funding
- Stewardship Society
- Research Studies
- Engagement
- Next Steps



**SALMON
PARKS**



**SALMON
PARKS**

**Declaration by the hawŋiŋ of the
Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation**

We, the hawŋiŋ of the Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation, as the hereditary leaders of our Nation, have rights and responsibilities given to us by K'aa'ŋawŋ (creation) to protect, steward and govern our hawŋiŋ (territories) that we have stewarded since time immemorial and never ceded or surrendered.

We govern our hawŋiŋ with our moosehlt legal order, which is grounded in the foundational laws of hawŋiŋ laws, meaning 'everything is one', 'ŋisak, meaning 'respect with caring', 'ŋawŋiŋak, meaning 'taking care of', and 'ŋawŋiŋ, or 'togetherness'.

For millennia, our relatives, the Saak and hiniŋuŋiŋ (ocean and river chum), suwa and ŋadup (ocean and freshwater Chinook), ŋawŋ (coho), m'ŋak and hawŋ (ocean and freshwater sockeye), and ŋawŋ (pink) salmon, have swam in our waters. They are now declining, threatened, and in grave danger due to unsustainable extractive activities, decades of mismanagement of our hawŋiŋ without our consent, and the exacerbating effects of climate change. We have a responsibility to care for our salmon relatives as we rely on them for sustenance and cultural continuity and we know that the health of our salmon relatives is inextricably tied to the health of our entire hawŋiŋ.

The hawŋiŋ of the Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation declare that all the lands, waters, sites and what is below the ground within the following watersheds: Buman River, Muchahlt River including the Oktoaweh River, Umer/Perry and Tuhok Rivers, Kendrick Creek and Mawehus Creek, Upper Gold River and Upper Caravan River, as shown on the attached map titled 'Map of MOWOH Salmon Parks', are held up, protected and revered as Salmon Parks under Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation inherent law and authority.

This Declaration is grounded in our inherent authority and jurisdiction to protect key watersheds within our hawŋiŋ. Salmon Parks are protected to restore the abundance of our salmon relatives within our hawŋiŋ, maintain our connection with and presence on our ancestral lands and waters, protect key heritage sites, and practice our culture, language, and laws, all of which are crucial for the thriving of the Mowachah and Muchahlt people.

Salmon Parks are fundamentally connected to the core of Mowachah/Muchahlt identity and way of life, including sites of our creation stories. Salmon Parks contain critical salmon habitat, including intact old growth forest ecosystems, and collectively represent the most resilient landscapes within our territories in the face of climate change.

We are establishing Salmon Parks under moosehlt law as we continue to uphold our responsibilities and exercise our inherent and Aboriginal rights and title today. We envision Salmon Parks brought back to full health for all beings and generations to come under the stewardship and guidance of the hawŋiŋ of the Mowachah/Muchahlt First Nation.

We call upon all governments and their citizens to recognize Salmon Parks and to respect the authority and decisions of Mowachah/Muchahlt decision-makers immediately and forever.

Passed, signed and enacted on this 13 day of September in Tsawana, BC.

Tawŋiŋ M'ŋak Mawehus

Tawŋiŋ hawŋiŋ George

Tawŋiŋ Dan Sanyuk

Tawŋiŋ Patrick James

Tawŋiŋ M'ŋak Mawehus

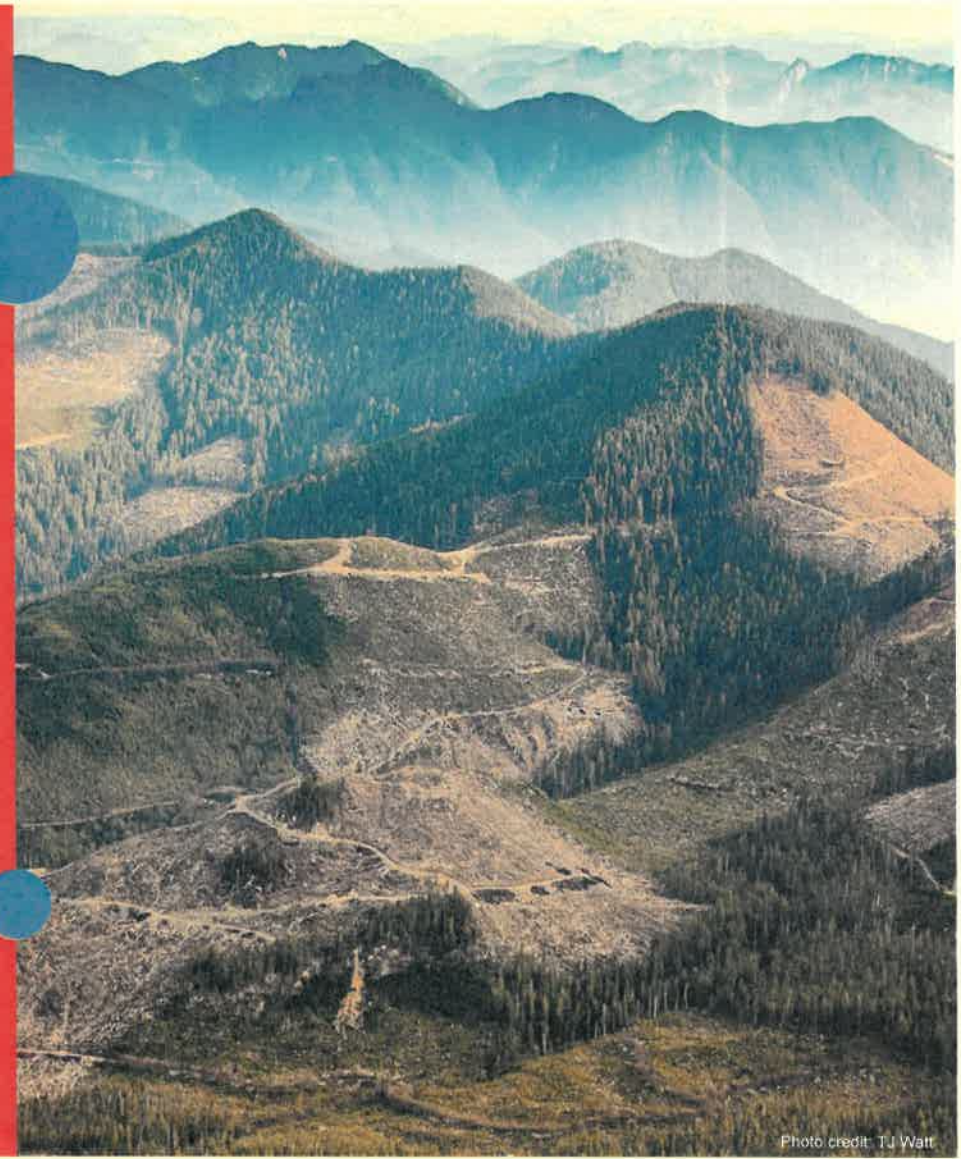


Photo credit: TJ Watt



FUNDING

- \$15.2M from Environment and Climate Change Canada
- \$12.5M is for purchasing forest tenures and remainder for research studies and operations
- Operational and project-specific funding and in-kind support from ten different non-government organizations



SALMON PARKS STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

- Formed November 2023 by MMFN
- Mandate to implement salmon parks vision as expressed in the Declaration
- Five staff currently, including two MMFN community members and one Gold River resident
- MMFN Community Advisory Group established in February 2024



Photo credit: Jodie Gallant



RESEARCH STUDIES

- Business case for Salmon Parks
- Carbon feasibility assessment
- Estuary resilience to climate change
- RELAW: Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water
- Cultural-ecological field surveys
- Historical forest mapping using remote sensing and AI





Photo credit: TJ Watt

ENGAGEMENT

- Signed MOU with Province in May 2023 to develop recommendations for designation and management planning
- Internal community engagement started December 2023
- External stakeholder engagement underway with more to come
- Currently developing a strategic communications plan

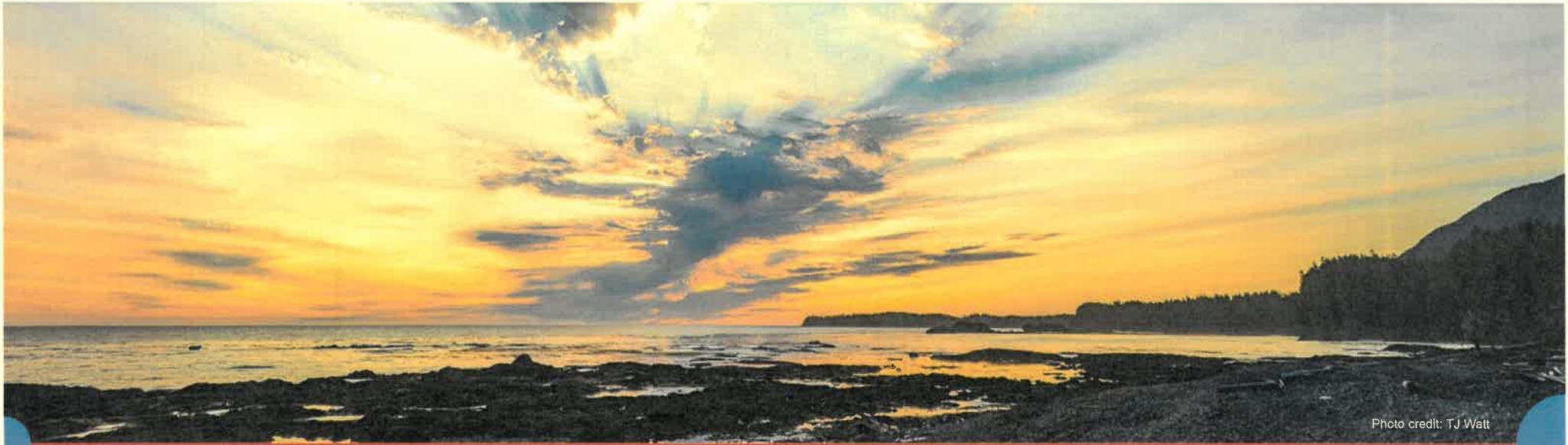


Photo credit: TJ Watt

NEXT STEPS

- Secure funding and initiate Guardian Program
- Launch additional research studies
- Continue negotiations with BC and other parties
- Source ongoing operational funding from government, philanthropic and other organizations
- Increase social media presence and continue to develop communications materials, e.g. short documentaries



Photo credit: TJ Watt

OUR PARTNERS

- Ancient Forest Alliance
- CPAWS-BC
- Ducks Unlimited
- Habitat Conservation Trust
- Indigenous Watershed Initiative
- Nature Based Solutions Foundation
- Nature Trust of BC
- Nature United
- Nootka Sound Watershed Society
- Oceans Collaborative
- Sitka Foundation
- West Coast Environmental Law



CONTACT



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“It’s not about laying blame or pointing fingers ... working together is the way to go ... for those wild stocks to be able to survive and be sustainable ...”

**tayii hawit Mike Maquinna
Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation**



Photo credit: T.J Watt

Mowachaht/Muchalaht Salmon Parks





IN THE NEWS

First Nation creating Salmon Park to protect fragile ecosystem

Campbell River Mirror

December 08, 2023

'Salmon Parks' in traditional First Nations territory aim to save habitats by stopping old-growth logging

The Globe and Mail

November 29, 2023

Government makes big conservation pledges, but recognition of Indigenous protected areas remains to be seen

Ha-Shilth-Sa

November 27, 2023

Mowachaht/Muchalaht awarded 15 million to protect old-growth and salmon

Ha-Shilth-Sa

November 10, 2023

Inside a Movement to conserve Pacific Northwest old-growth

The Seattle Times

February 2023

