

Innovative subdivisions to retain and protect valued features

The development of subdivisions frequently involves the loss of fish and wildlife habitats and areas that have been enjoyed for recreation by local people. This project examines a range of tools that can support protection of these areas. These include specific bylaws, conservation covenants, collaboration with neighbours in identifying valued areas, partnerships with local government and/or the provincial government, particular formats of subdivision design such as bare land strata, and property tax exemptions. Several properties in the Bulkley Valley provide examples of features and options including two in the Regional District and one in Telkwa. Monitoring and enforcement of covenants and riparian setbacks are challenges given resource limitations. In looking towards a Valley-grown solution, the potential role of a Regional Conservation Fund is considered.

Cristina Soto has a multi-disciplinary PhD from the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University. She would like to thank the Kassandra Trust for generously funding the project and Anne Hetherington working with the Species and Ecosystems at Risk and Local Government Working Group, FLNRO, for collaboration.