

PROJECT: Xá:y Syí:ts'emílep: Gill Bar Restoration and Management Plan



Gill Bar, Fraser River

Shared territories of Xwchíyò:m and Sqwá First Nations

The Xá:y Syí:ts'emílep (Gill Bar) Restoration and Management Plan project is gathering the information needed to create a management plan for the area moving forward. Over three years, the project will assess the impacts of recreational use on habitats, inventory species in the area, and consult with local knowledge keepers.



RESTORATION PLANS

After almost two years of research, the first draft of our habitat restoration plan is almost complete.

Restoration activities, including invasives removal and planting of beneficial native species, are planned for late summer and early fall. The restoration team will send out invites to the community to come out and get involved a little closer to the time.



FISH SAMPLING

One of the research techniques being used at Gill Bar, to assess fish populations in the area is regular, monthly fish sampling using a seine net.

In 2025, researchers will continue to be joined by Pelólxw youth, guardians and other community members. If you are interested in joining an upcoming field day, please contact Doug Van Loan. at doug.loan@lffa.ca.

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RAPTORS & OTHER BIRDS AT GILL BAR



Bald Eagle
Sp'óg'les
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

On January 27, 2025, raptor expert, Myles Lamont, visited Gill Bar, joined by some guardians (and the video team) for a successful, and very sunny, day in the field.

The team encountered a lot of bird activity, and discussed the potential that reduced vehicle traffic and noise on the bar has increased the number of birds (as they can better call and interact with each other).

Species observed included red-tailed hawks, eagles, grouse, hairy woodpecker, and great blue heron.



Hairy Woodpecker
Leuconotopicus villosus

The team found a previously unrecorded eagle nest, and noted plenty of habitat potential in the area, especially among cottonwood trees. Cottonwoods which break off and leave a perfect basket shaped areas for nests. They also noted plenty of potential habitat for species raptors feed on.



Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis



Spruce Grouse (female)
Canachites canadensis

Raptors (often called birds of prey) actively hunt and feed on other vertebrates. They have sharp talons, hooked beaks, keen eyesight and a carnivorous diet. In the Gill Bar area, raptor species include the bald eagle and owls.

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PLANTS & MOSSES



Botanist, Terry McIntosh, visited Gill Bar in October, 2024, to look primarily at mosses. His report includes a long, but not exhaustive, list of plants - over 61 vascular plants, 24 of which are exotic species. He suspects that, once further surveys are completed this number will at least double.

Terry McIntosh suggests further surveys in the area and recommends beginning clearing the invasive blackberry from the site in the spring.

MEASURING WATER QUALITY



In February, our aquatic researchers Doug Van Loan and Mike Pearson installed conductivity monitors in ponds on site. These will measure the water quality and assess whether there is an increase in activity in March when large amounts of fertilizer are applied to nearby fields. Excessive nitrogen in this runoff can cause eutrophication and algal blooms.

VIDEOS



Bear Image Productions is currently putting together two short (2 to 3 minutes) videos about the project. They have been out in the field with the researchers, collecting footage and conducting interviews. We expect the first of these videos to be ready around the end of March. Stay tuned!

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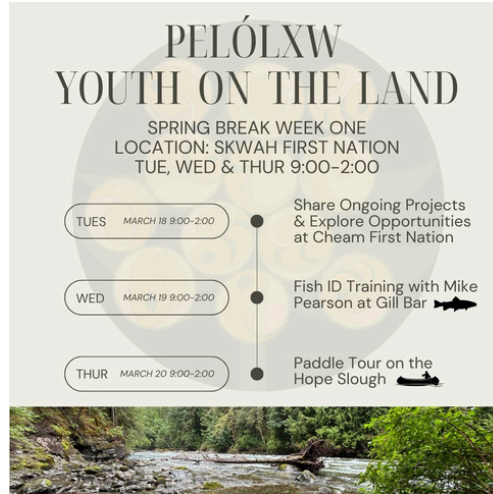
PELÓLXW YOUTH ON THE LAND



**PELÓLXW
YOUTH ON THE LAND**

SPRING BREAK OPPORTUNITY
WEEK ONE: MARCH 18TH, 19TH & 20TH
WEEK TWO: MARCH 25TH, 26TH & 27TH
LOCATION: 619 LOWER LANDING RD. SKWAH
AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH AGES: 13-27

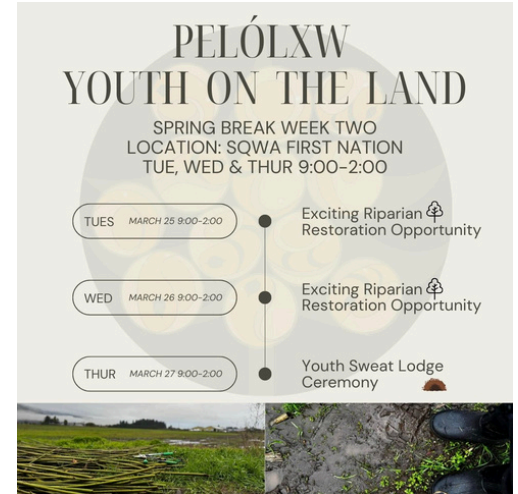

REGISTER WITH ELIA LOCKHART
ELIA@ALONGSIDERC.CA



**PELÓLXW
YOUTH ON THE LAND**

SPRING BREAK WEEK ONE
LOCATION: SKWAH FIRST NATION
TUE, WED & THUR 9:00-2:00


- TUES MARCH 18 9:00-2:00 • Share Ongoing Projects & Explore Opportunities at Cheam First Nation
- WED MARCH 19 9:00-2:00 • Fish ID Training with Mike Pearson at Gill Bar
- THUR MARCH 20 9:00-2:00 • Paddle Tour on the Hope Slough



**PELÓLXW
YOUTH ON THE LAND**

SPRING BREAK WEEK TWO
LOCATION: SQWA FIRST NATION
TUE, WED & THUR 9:00-2:00

- TUES MARCH 25 9:00-2:00 • Exciting Riparian Restoration Opportunity
- WED MARCH 26 9:00-2:00 • Exciting Riparian Restoration Opportunity
- THUR MARCH 27 9:00-2:00 • Youth Sweat Lodge Ceremony



Pelólxw Youth on the Land is a spring break camp for Pelólxw youth aged 13-27. (See the itinerary on the graphics above.) Contact Elia Lockhart (Elia@alongsiderc.ca) for more information or to register.

2024 LAND & LANGUAGE SPRING BREAK CAMP



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NEW GATE SIGNAGE



Signs have been installed on the gates on Ferry Rd and at the end of Gill Rd. to let visitors know that Pelólxw Tribe have a research and restoration project underway at Gill Bar, and that visitors are welcome, but camping is not allowed.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

PELÓLXW ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORS

Four Pelólxw environmental monitors have been hired and started work in January. The monitors are covering a number of sites, including Gill Bar, walking the land, keeping an eye on the area, noting changes to the landscape, species of interest, and any areas of concern.

CHEAM WATCHMEN PROGRAM

In response to concerns about encampments and garbage, the Cheam Watchmen Program has begun regular low-profile security patrols on site to monitor for issues like illegal encampments, debris, or unauthorized motorized traffic.