

## Mike Pearson, PhD, RPBio visits the Boundary

April 2015, fisheries and habitat biologist Mike Pearson visited the Grand Forks and Gilpin areas to assess various streams and wetlands.

Mike and his company, Pearson Ecological Inc, work primarily in the Fraser Valley on restoration/conservation work and Mike's concerns over habitat damage and endangered species have received frequent attention in the press and in extended articles by environment reporter Larry Pynn in the Vancouver Sun. Thanks to the efforts of Barry and Midge Brandow, in arranging Mike's visit, Mike toured the various sites and was speaker at a public meeting in Grand Forks April 10 2015.

The writer was pleased to sponsor the meeting on behalf of Boundary Alliance Org and introduce Mike.

Mike's Habitat Assessment Report is self explanatory as to causes of problems and potential solutions.

We note that since his report was written, **'The Spring on Nature Trust Property, Gilpin'** has been fenced by volunteers who also funded the project. The 'project' will be the subject of an upcoming article.

Barry Brandow and the writer (Al Grant) primarily constructed the new **'wildlife friendly fence'** to replace a smaller poorly constructed and non-functional fence installed by Range Branch a few years ago. We received some help with the work from Nature Trust and several other volunteers. Our thanks to all.

The Nature Trust property in the Gilpin was the first Nature Trust acquisition in BC in 1973 and now for the first time in 42 years a small section of the property will now be protected from range-cows and off-roaders. The remainder of this Nature Trust plot and several others in the Gilpin remain unprotected.

We expect that the new fenced area of about 6 acres will provide a model for wildlife friendly fencing and may (should) prompt Range Branch to utilize similar fencing on future projects, something they have been reluctant to do.

For this writer, the issues covered by Mike are some of many longstanding issues that have not been prevented or remedied by Range Branch or various other Ministry's over the year sand we do not expect that these issues will be addressed in any meaningful way by the Kettle River Watershed Management Planning Process. More to come in future articles on the KRWMP and its shortcomings and potential threats.

Mike Pearson's full report, *Habitat Assessment of Stream & Wetland Sites in the Gilpin Grasslands & Eholt Creek*. [here](#)

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