

Watershed Targets

Cowichan Watershed Board
January 2012

This Evening

- What the Watershed Targets are
- What they aren't
- High level summary
- ..



Targets –What They Are

- Support CBWMP Goals & Objectives
- Science based
- Integrate several environmental health factors
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Affordable
- Relevant
- Understandable
- Embraceable



Targets –What They Aren't

- Ultimate ecosystem indicators
- A finite or exclusive list
- More or less important than other watershed issues
- Mutually Exclusive



Water Quality Target

We want clean water in our watershed

- TARGET:** TSS levels (turbidity) in the Cowichan Watershed should meet accepted water quality guidelines



Estuary Health Target

We want to be able to eat shellfish from Cowichan Bay

- TARGET-** Shellfish from designated areas of Cowichan Bay will be harvested for human consumption by 2020



Salmon Sustainability Target

We want healthy salmon populations in the Watershed

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•**TARGET**- Steelhead fry abundance in the Cowichan should meet or exceed target densities

Look at other salmon targets as well.



Water Use Target

We need to use our water wisely

- **TARGET** – Achieve a X?% reduction in Peak Summer Demand by 2015



Watershed IQ Target

You Can't fully value what you don't understand

- Target:** All grade 4s participate on field trip each year to know their watershed
- Target:** Increased knowledge of Cowichan Watershed among local residents



Water Supply Target

Summer water flows are critical and have been declining

•TARGET: Cowichan River summer flows need to be 7CMS or higher



Riparian Target

***We want to protect and enjoy
Stream, River and Lake front
habitats***

- Target** –X% increase in area of riparian habitats protected in watershed by 2021.
- Target** – Y% riparian habitats restored/enhanced and at or in process of achieving healthy condition by 2021



Expanding on the Targets

- Culture
- Public health
- Forestry
- Economic development



Bottom Line

- “Targets” not intended to “replace the plan”
- Will be effective in raising awareness in community
- Come with challenges
- Are about “Doing Something” – not talking about it
- Require Board leadership & resources

