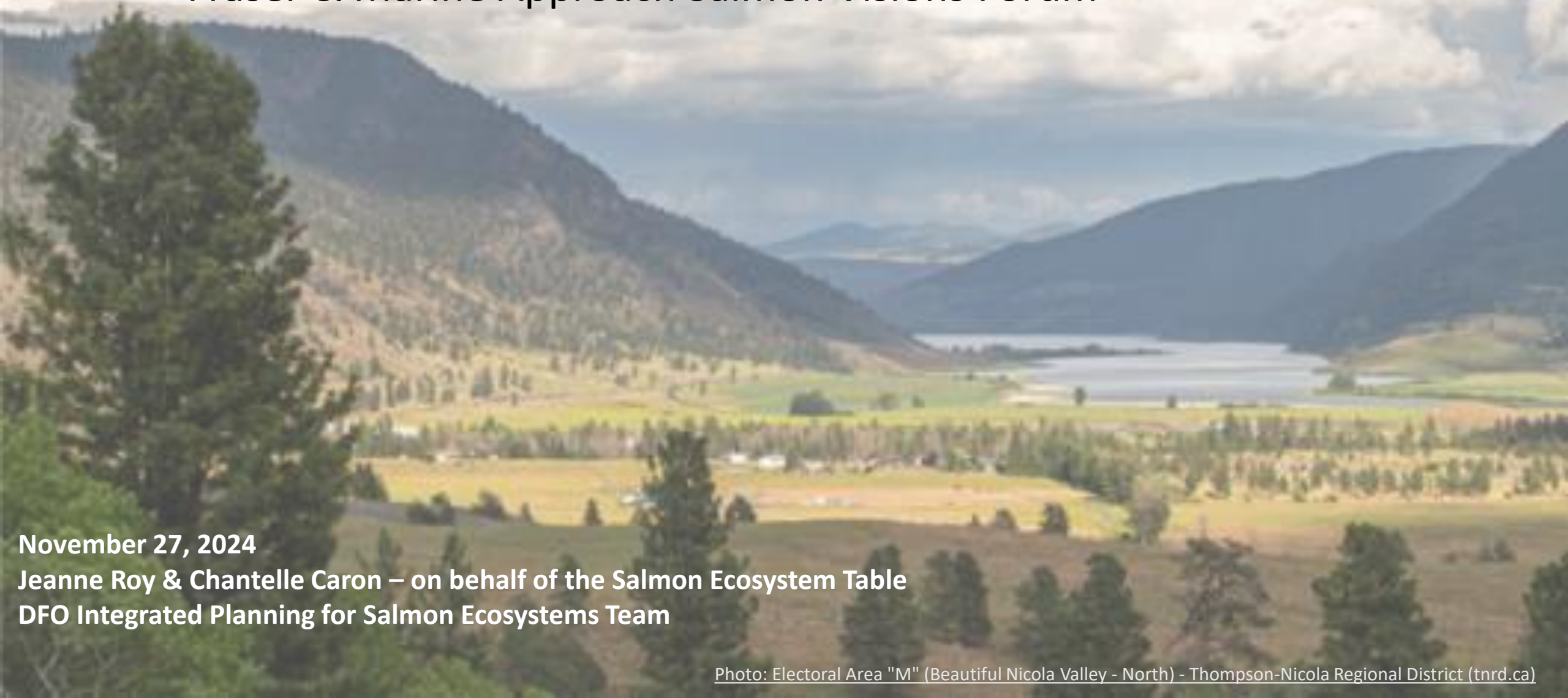


# Spotlight on the Nicola Watershed Salmon Ecosystem Table (SET)

Fraser Salmon Management Council

Fraser & Marine Approach Salmon Visions Forum



November 27, 2024

Jeanne Roy & Chantelle Caron – on behalf of the Salmon Ecosystem Table

DFO Integrated Planning for Salmon Ecosystems Team



# Presentation Overview

- ☞ **The Nicola Watershed and Threats to Salmon**
- ☞ **How the Salmon Ecosystem Table came to be**
- ☞ **Our Goal: the Nicola Watershed Integrated Salmon Ecosystem Strategy**
- ☞ **What can we learn from this process?**
- ☞ **Upcoming Engagement and Opportunities to Collaborate**



# Nicola Hydrology and Watershed Groups

Located in the traditional territory of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people.

## Watershed Groups & Major Waterbodies

Lower Nicola River · 3671 km<sup>2</sup>

- Clapperton Creek, Coldwater River, Lower Nicola River, Spius Creek

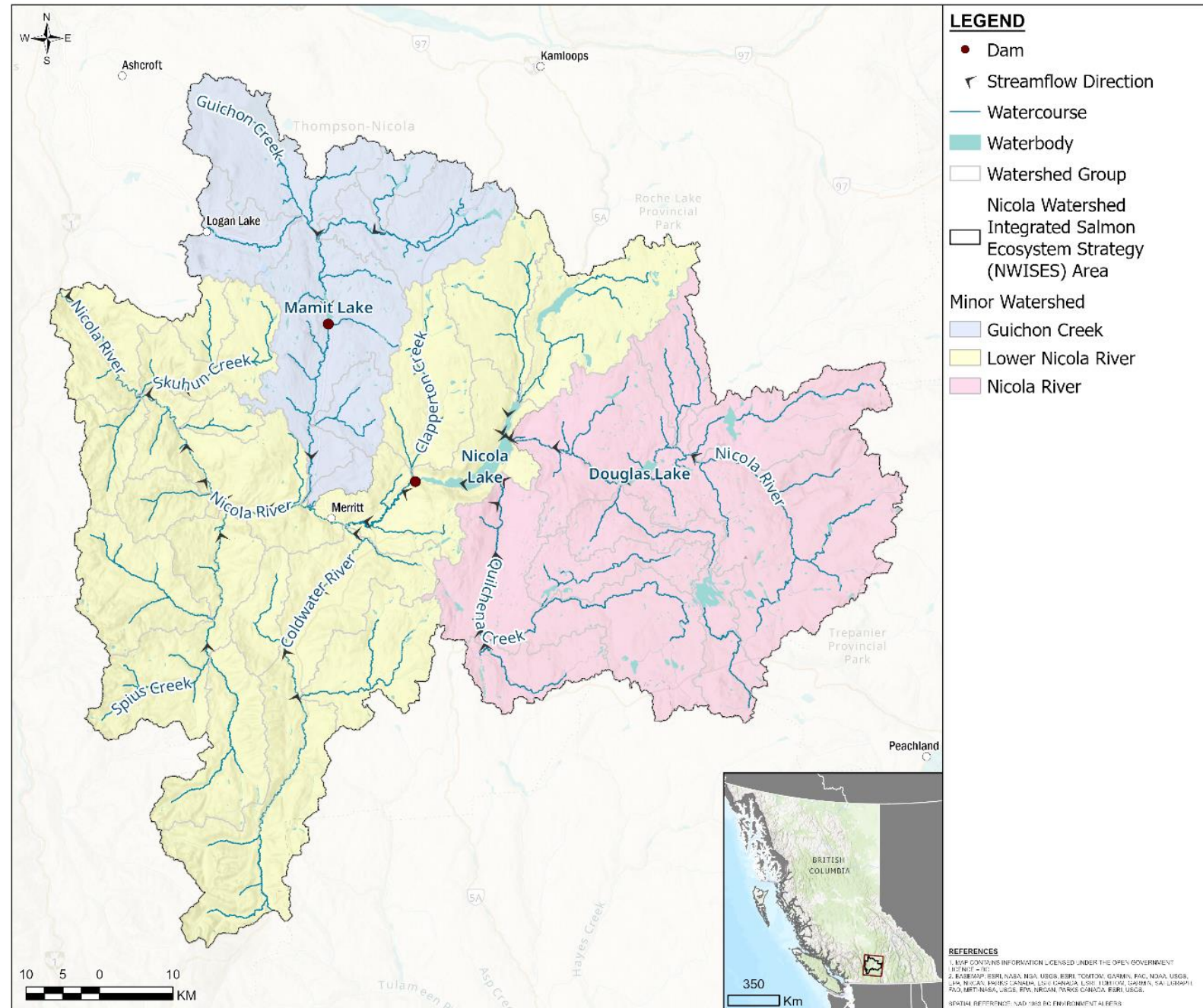
Nicola River · 2289 km<sup>2</sup>

- Upper Nicola River, Quilchena Creek

Guichon Creek · 1224 km<sup>2</sup>

- Guichon Creek

**Total Area: 7,184 km<sup>2</sup>**



# Anadromous Salmon Populations in the Nicola Area

Species	CU Index and Name	WSP Status	COSEWIC DU and Status	Salmon CUs in Watershed Groups		
				Nicola River	Lower Nicola River	Guichon Creek
<b>k'wγ'í?e/pəqélus - ntytyix</b> Chinook salmon	CK-17 – Lower Thompson SP 1.2	Red (poor)	DU15 – Endangered		✓	✓
<b>sxa' yqs - kisú?</b> Coho salmon	CO-7 – Lower Thompson	Green (good) / Amber (fair)	DU6 – Threatened	✓	✓	✓
Pink salmon	PKO-1 – Fraser River	Green (good) / Amber (fair)	Not assessed	✓	✓	✓
<b>có?wle? - g'wəyq'əyfaća?</b> Steelhead trout	Thompson River*	Not assessed	Endangered		✓	✓

Indigenous species names retrieved from Mazany-Wright et al. (2021).

# Nicola Watershed Land Uses

Land Use	Guichon Creek·1224 km <sup>2</sup>	L. Nicola River·3671 km <sup>2</sup>	Nicola River·2289 km <sup>2</sup>	Total·7184 km <sup>2</sup>
Forest Tenure Cutblock	404 km <sup>2</sup> (33%)	628 km <sup>2</sup> (17%)	511 km <sup>2</sup> (22%)	1,543 km <sup>2</sup> (22%)
Agricultural Land Reserve	166 km <sup>2</sup> (14%)	475 km <sup>2</sup> (13%)	800 km <sup>2</sup> (35%)	1,441 km <sup>2</sup> (20%)
Permitted Mine	56 km <sup>2</sup> (5%)	15 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)	N/A	71 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)
Built Area	6.8 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)	24 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)	1.6 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)	32.4 km <sup>2</sup> (<1%)
Road Length	4,123 km	9,013 km	4,997 km	18,133 km
Pipeline Length	214 km	710 km	326 km	1,250 km

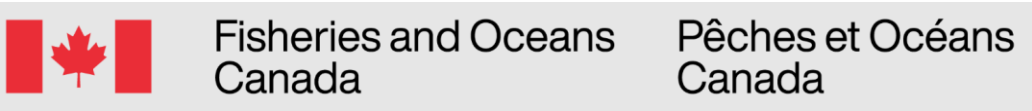
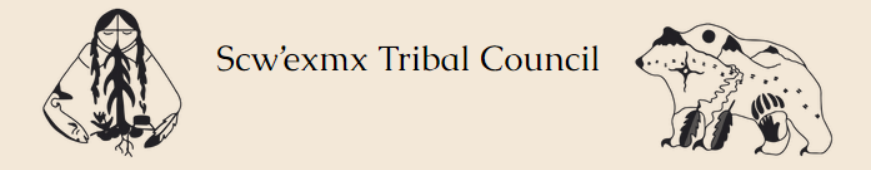


Photo: Electoral Area "M" (Beautiful Nicola Valley - North) - Thompson-Nicola Regional District ([tnrd.ca](http://tnrd.ca))



# How the Salmon Ecosystem Table came to be

Salmon Ecosystem Table  
Membership



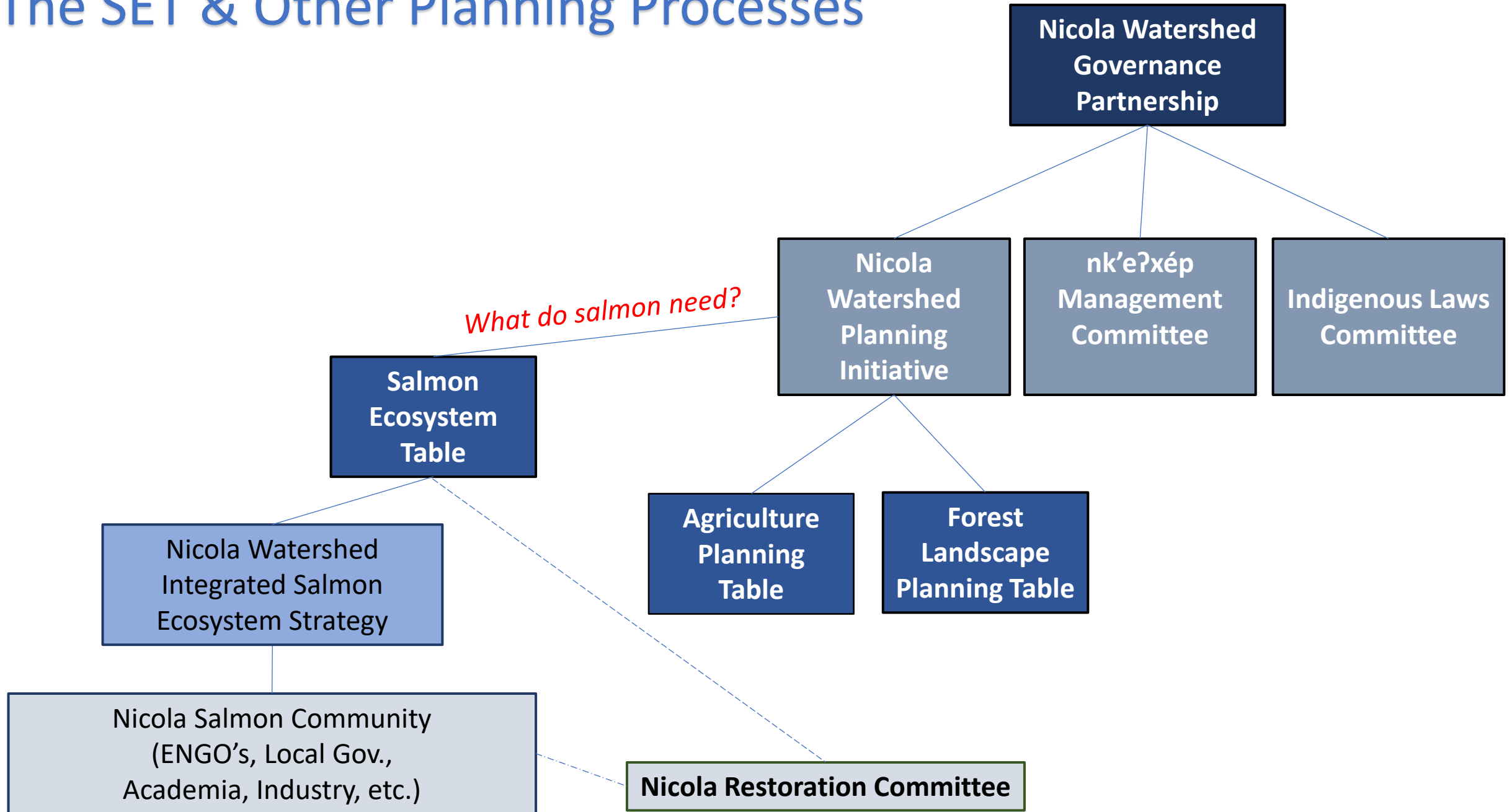
# The Purpose of the Salmon Ecosystem Table

Our goal is to develop the Nicola Watershed Integrated Salmon Ecosystem Strategy

***Watershed Vision:***

***Work collaboratively and strategically in an environment of mutual respect and accountability to create an ecosystem strategy that will support long-term recovery and resilience of salmon in the Nicola Watershed.***

# The SET & Other Planning Processes





# Strategy Development and Timeline



# Top Threats in the Nicola

- Temperature Extremes
- Altered Hydrograph (H2O quantity & timing)
- Activities that degrade habitat
- Human disconnection to fish and land
- Poor water quality
- Land disturbance
- Invasive species



Level	Conditions	What to Expect
1 (Green)	Normal	There is sufficient water to meet human and ecosystem needs
2 (Yellow)	Dry	First indications of a potential water supply problem
3 (Orange)	Very Dry	Potentially serious ecosystem or socio-economic impacts are possible
4 (Red)	Extremely Dry	Water supply insufficient to meet socio-economic and ecosystem needs
Loss of Supply		Potential loss of community's potable or fire fighting water supply





# Strategy Overview

- Co-developed with partners
- Technically focused and grounded in best available research and local and Indigenous knowledge
- Focus is on salmonid habitat & ecosystems
- In alignment with other planning processes
- The outcome will be prioritized immediate, mid- and long-term recommendations and actions and highlight “What do Salmon Need”
- Will include identification of potential funding mechanisms for implementation

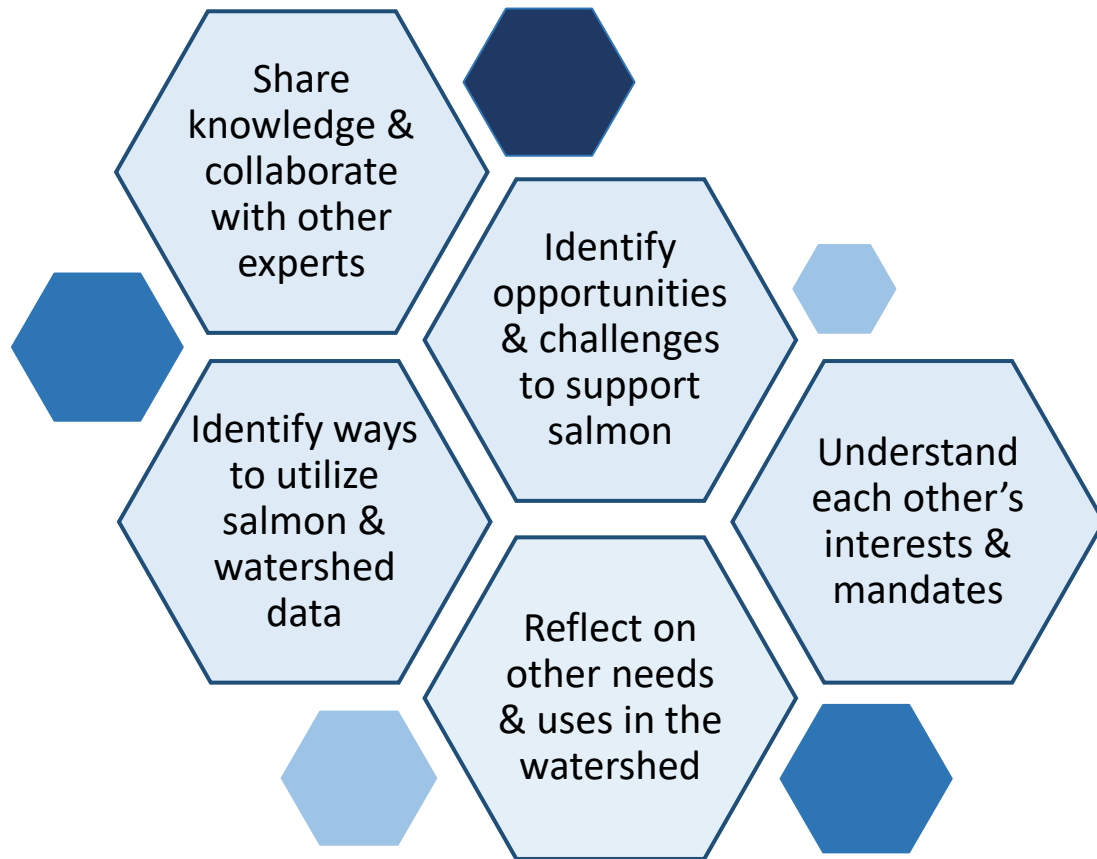
**Goal is to inform the work of SET members, the Nicola Watershed Planning Initiative, other jurisdictions, and those living and working in the Nicola watershed as we work together towards a healthier aquatic ecosystem.**



Chinook in the Nicola River, Salmon Watersheds Lab  
Jonathan Moore and Team



# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities



- Salmon Habitat Mapping
  - Ongoing – reach out to join in
- SET Information Session
  - January 2025
- Workshop #3: Action Identification & Prioritization
  - March 2025
- Collaboration and info sharing with Nicola Restoration Committee
  - Ongoing

# What has been learned from this process?

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- Support Structures
- Resource/Process Requirements
- Tools/Tech Needs
- Limits to Progress





# Summary



Urgent need to address salmon declines




Working with partners to identify strategic actions to address key habitat pressures



Opportunities to collaborate and engage in Nicola ecosystem strategy



A large group of Coho Salmon swimming in clear water. The fish are silvery with a pinkish-red hue on their sides and tails. They are swimming in a school, with one fish in the foreground being the most prominent. The background is slightly blurred, showing other fish and some greenery.

Thank you!  
Questions?

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