

Tenas Project Information Request: Fish and Fish Habitat

June 6, 2023

Fish and Fish Habitat

References

Telkwa Coal Project Aquatic Resource Assessment (1985), David Bustard & Associates Smithers, B.C

BC EAO EAC Application Tenas Project – May 2022 Version 1.0 Section 4.0 Chapter 6

Rationale

BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS)

- Reviewers have identified a lack of details in the Application around adult steelhead/rainbow trout spawning activity.
- Attempts to conduct steelhead/rainbow trout spawning surveys in 2018 were abandoned due to weather conditions.
- The Bustard report used as reference includes fish surveys conducted in 1985 and is not reflective of recent and reliable population information.
- Reviewers cannot conclude with confidence the relevance of the area to steelhead/rainbow trout spawning.

Information Request

Theme	Comment #	Information Request
LWRS		
Fish and Fish Habitat	New	Telkwa Coal Limited must conduct ground-based surveys for spawning activity or evidence of spawning activity of steelhead/rainbow trout, with a focus on smaller creeks that overlap the local study area. The objective is to identify any habitat use in the project area by adult steelhead, including migration and spawning. The spatial extent of surveys should extend from a stream's confluence with the Telkwa River or Goathorn Creek upstream to the end of fish use. Methods to employ can include spawning surveys, redd surveys, fry emergence surveys, DNA, biometrics, habitat suitability assessments, and any other methods deemed appropriate and informative. Telkwa Coal Limited must engage with participating Indigenous nations when responding to this information request to provide an opportunity for comment and to ensure that Indigenous interests and Indigenous knowledge are considered and incorporated into the response.