



Kwakiutl First Nation

Lands & Resources Healthy Watersheds Initiative

Dłaxsiwè, Gwa'dzi and Giyuxw

Dear Community and Staff,

We wanted to share some information about upcoming project work on our Watersheds. We have received funding to do work at Dłaxsiwè (Cluxewe). This funding is related to watershed restoration work, so we will be addressing the ocean erosion on the spit, and inside the estuary. An engineering and geotechnical assessment will be done in the next few weeks. This work will provide us with a long-term plan for how to protect that narrow stretch along the road where the ocean is threatening to breach the estuary, and the inside estuary, where our camping sites are being lost. The public media announcement is appearing in local papers and on radio in Comox and Campbell River. The provincial MLA in Campbell River is also taking about our project. You can find the link online at: <https://www.refbc.com/our-work/healthy-watersheds-initiative>. Our Guardians will be engaged and working on every aspect of the project. Our full media statement is included below:

Dłaxsiwè (sounds like Klux-see-we in English) is an origin and historic village site for Kwakiutl. The lower reaches of Dłaxsiwè have been severely impacted by forestry and other development, and, as a result, are extremely unstable. Our Indigenous Knowledge regarding salmon in this watershed reports that populations are now 'almost nothing' compared to what Kwakiutl ancestors witnessed. Today, it is the location of our campground and resort, is regularly used for cultural purposes, including healing and ceremony. It is also the location of some of the best clam beds on North Island, was once considered a world class fly fishing river, and contains significant habitat for migratory birds. All of this is at risk if we cannot stabilize the negative impacts to this watershed. The funding from HWI will help us make a start at doing this.



Photo Credit: Markus Thompson, Thalassia Environmental, 2019, Drone photography.

We also got funding for work at Gwa'dzi (Quatse) and Giyuxw (Keogh), but the grant agreements have not yet been finalized, so there are no public announcements as yet. Work at Gwa'dzi will involve some mapping and revegetation of native species (e.g., silverweed/root, cloverroot, crabapple), archeological monitoring and recording (including CMTs around estuary and fish trap by campground), and ongoing water quality monitoring. At the Giyuxw, the funding will support ongoing fish counts and rehabilitation of stream channel to reduce erosion, as well as plans to conduct a cultural, educational project of temporarily rebuilding Tsuqwa (the name of the stone trap there) at the mouth of the river. We have planned this project with Ema and her singers and dancers, are including a community feast, and expect to welcome all the folks that we work with at the Giyuxw – DFO, FLNRO Aquatics Division, and the airport.

If you have any questions about these projects or our work, please do not hesitate to contact us at: Tel: **(250) 949-6012 (x3157)**, or Email: lands-resources@kwakiutl.bc.ca

Gilakas'la!

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