

Addendum #1 March 2, 2009: Kinbasket Reservoir Revegetation Program (CLBWORKS-1)

A1.1 Addendum Rationale

During the WUP consultative process, available information indicated that the greatest limiting factor to vegetation establishment within the drawdown zone of Kinbasket Reservoir was not operation of the reservoir but the lack of initial vegetation communities. The Consultative Committee (CC) therefore recommended that a reservoir-wide program involving targeted planting be implemented to meet specific environmental and social objectives. Based on experience with other reservoir revegetation programs (e.g., Arrow Lakes Reservoir), it was expected that development of a 'permanent' riparian/wetland cover in the reservoir would involve intervention over three to five years to establish conditions for natural re-colonization.

The program was designed with a 3-phase approach involving:

1. Verification and prioritization of proposed revegetation locations, collection of seed stock, initiation of nursery stock and cutting of live stakes (2007);
2. Design of revegetation plan based on consultation with First Nations, regulatory agencies and stakeholders (2008);
3. Implementation of site specific revegetation treatments (2009-2011).

Since implementing the program in 2007, it has become apparent that the program requires a more adaptive management approach to ensure that treatments being applied in the drawdown zone are effective in the long term towards development of self-sustaining vegetation communities. At present, there is too little known about the species, ages of plants, substrates and site conditions that would be optimal for establishing vegetation communities that are tolerant to and capable of surviving the extreme inundation regimes of the reservoir. Further, it has become apparent that much smaller areas can be treated in any given year due to the time-consuming nature of prescription applications.

In addition, the amount of planting that BC Hydro has been able to conduct in recent years has been constrained by higher than normal spring/summer and fall reservoir elevations, which is being driven primarily by expiry of the release provision of the Non-Treaty Storage Agreement. The condition is likely to continue until a new agreement is negotiated with the U.S.

A1.2 Project Schedule

The revegetation program in Kinbasket Reservoir was originally envisioned by the WUP CC as a 5-year program. It is proposed that the program be implemented over a longer timeframe to allow learnings from successful smaller scale treatments to be applied across the reservoir. The intent is to maximize the likelihood of establishing long-term vegetation cover in those areas that have good potential to become self-sustaining.

1.3 Budget

The annual budgets have been revised to reflect the smaller scale treatment approach and lower field effort required in each year of the program while keeping within the overall approved budget for the program.

Note: The higher 2009 budget relative to the remaining years of the program is due to the need to plant stock that has been growing over the past year.

Total = \$2,449,881