

Essay question –

What I can do to protect, preserve and/or restore the Shuswap Watershed?

Suggestions for topics:

1. start a school environmental club
2. Learn more about specific threats to the watershed - eg. Invasive Species, Resource Use Issues, Foreshore Development, Pollution, Recreational Use, Climate Change
3. volunteer with a local stewardship organization
4. write letters to politicians
5. volunteer with a local environmental organization
6. promote green consuming habits amongst friends and family
7. monitor a local creek
8. watch for damaging activities in or near streams and report to the RAPP line
9. learn about the RAPP program and spread the word amongst friends and family
10. help to green up your school – recycling, composting, reducing
11. promote water conservation activities
12. plant trees along a creek
13. mark storm drains to educate people about urban runoff
14. monitor the aquatic invertebrates on a stream
15. design and publish brochures to educate the public about watershed issues
16. make a personal plan to cut down on green house gas emissions
17. make a personal plan to conserve water

To research your topic, utilize these websites that contain helpful information:

<http://www.waterbucket.ca/wuc/> Water Bucket

<http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/> Living Water Smart

<http://salmonarm.wordpress.com/favourite-links/> Aim High Salmon Arm Substantial Local Links

[http://www.belss.org/library/cat\\_view/63-recommended-reading.html](http://www.belss.org/library/cat_view/63-recommended-reading.html) Large # of Stewardship Manuals PDF

<http://www.livingbywater.ca/main.html> Living by Water.

<http://www.youthactioncentre.ca/English/index.htm> Green Street youth action centre

<http://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/what-we-do/issues/> Canadian Wildlife Federation.

More key websites below.....

## **Key Threats (from the Shuswap Watershed Poster)**

### **Invasive species –**

Non-native plant and animal species can have detrimental impacts on the ecosystem. They can compete with native species for food, shelter and habitat which may change ecosystems dynamics and can lead to the extinction of both fish and wildlife species. Some examples of non-native species include perch, bass, sunfish, and European starling.

### **Resource use –**

Extraction of resources for agriculture, forestry, mining, and urban/rural development can impact aquatic and wildlife habitat.

Clearing land results in increased sediment transport and erosion that can lower water quality and destroy fish and wildlife habitat through in-filling and burying plants, insects, and spawning areas.

### **Foreshore development –**

Shoreline development such as retaining walls, creation of beaches, beach grooming, landscaping, removal of shoreline vegetation, the construction of docks, boat houses, and boat launches alter the natural shoreline functions and result in cumulative impacts on wildlife and aquatic species. Alterations to foreshore areas degrade the quality and quantity of habitat available to fish species for rearing, migrating and spawning activities.

### **Pollution –**

Sewage effluent, agricultural run-off, fuel and oil spills, houseboat grey-water and storm-water run-off decreases water quality and increases the likelihood of algae blooms and aquatic weed growth. Decreased water quality may result in fish kills or raise human health issues.

### **Recreational use –**

The Shuswap watershed is subject to a high level of recreational use including boating, fishing, hiking, and hunting activities. Fuel or oil spills, erosion of foreshore areas, creation of docks or clearing of brush can all result from recreational use. These can lead to reduced habitat and survival for all species of wildlife that rely on the lake and its resources.

### **Links**

Pacific salmon information: [www.thinksalmon.com](http://www.thinksalmon.com)

Shoreline living information: The Living by Water Project: [www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)

Wetland information at Ducks Unlimited: [www.ducks.ca](http://www.ducks.ca)

BC Lake Stewardship Society: [www.bclss.org](http://www.bclss.org)

Shuswap environmental news and information: [www.seas.ca](http://www.seas.ca)

Fraser Basin information and news: [www.fraserbasin.bc.ca](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca)

Federal salmon management: [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Watershed resource guide and maps: [www.shuswapwatershed.ca](http://www.shuswapwatershed.ca)

Shuswap trails: [www.shuswaptrails.com](http://www.shuswaptrails.com)

Shuswap Lake mapping project, community plans, liquid waste water management plans, regional parks: [www.csr.bc.ca](http://www.csr.bc.ca)