



# Bow River Trout Foundation

## Calgary, Alberta



## POLICEMANS FLATS REVITALIZATION REPORT

### Progress Report 05 August 2018

Bow River Policeman's Flats River Access Site was devastated by the 2013 flood, rendering it dangerous to use as a boat access point. The flood removed a large section of the bank armament for the previous boat ramp. What was left was a remnant of the previous bank stabilization project whereby a string of large boulders was left in place, with others having been moved into the main river channel. Bow River Trout's position that is shared by other river use organizations, river guides, outfitters and the fishing community at large is that the current disposition of Policeman's Flats was unacceptable as a safe boat launch and takeout point. If improvements were not made to the site there is a real risk of loss of life. In addition, there is a need for: the parking and staging area to be contoured to facilitate better parking assignment, removal of debris and a general clean-up of the site and an amenities module and signage needs.

The project design will upgrade the site, whereby eliminating the dangerous obstruction to boat access and improving accessibility to the fishing and local community. The project will be carried out in three phases:

- Phase A: Remove river hazards at main flow entrance
- Phase B: Regrade parking lot
- Phase C: Regrade secondary boat launch and add amenities





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The project commenced with an engineering and environmental impact assessment in January of 2018. The project was supported by Alberta Environment and Parks to expedite regulatory approval to remove in-stream hazards from April 06 to May 01, 2018. All necessary permits were received to allow Phase A – in-stream rock removal to be completed within this window.

Phase B and C were combined into one component of the project whereby the parking lot and the second river access excavation was completed by May 15, 2018. Signage, large rock benches and garbage bins were added in June. The decision was made to install portable toilets rather than a permanent washroom since the regulatory process would be extensive. An Alberta Conservation Association Community Grant funded a sizable portion of the cost. Additional financial support of the project has been received from The Angling Outfitters and Guide Association of Alberta and Fish Tales Fly Shop.



The access roadway to the property across the wetland reserve has recently been upgraded by a contribution of gravel by Foothills County and local resident volunteers to perform the work. The Angling Outfitters and Guide Association of Alberta has played an active role in cleaning up the site, wrapping cottonwood trees against beaver damage. In addition, members of the fishing community are also taking responsibility for upkeep of the site on an ongoing basis. It has been encouraging to see local enthusiasm for the project.

The total budget for the project was \$42,525 of which approximately \$35,000 has been spent to date. Possible additional in-stream rock removal and preventative measure to restrict beaver encroachment into roadway culverts may be needed.

In closing, this project would not have been possible and would not have come in under budget without the contribution of both time and materials from many supporters. Through a research partnership with Greg Courtice, who is finishing up his PhD thesis at UBC, we were able to complete the work very cost-effectively by leveraging his network of resources that were willing to provide services at reduced costs to support the ongoing effort to better understand our interactions with river systems during these types of construction activities. The consulting and contractor fees for the in-stream portion of this project were \$10,600, while the anticipated costs without this research partnership would be \$22,640, a savings of \$12,040.

A complete list of support for the project will be available in the final report at the end of the year.



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Peter Crowe-Swords, President

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Figure 1: Policeman's' Flats Before Upgrade

Figure 2: Instream work



Figure 3: Signage and Toilets



Figure 4 & 5: Our Supporters

