

# Elk Valley Cumulative Effects Management Framework

## Building Watershed-Scale Assessment from the Ground Up





# What's So Special About CEMF?

- ❖ We strive to **integrate, coordinate, and communicate** rather than try to do it all ourselves
- ❖ We understand that it doesn't matter how good the science is if nobody believes it
- ❖ **THEREFORE**, we are building a cumulative effects assessment and management framework that has buy-in from a broad cross-section of stakeholders



# What's So Special About CEMF?

***“Engagement is an interactive and iterative process of deliberation among citizens with the purpose of contributing meaningfully to specific decisions in a transparent and accountable way”*** (Phillips and Orsini 2002)

# Goals

- A *practical, workable* framework that *supports decisions* related to assessment, mitigation and management of cumulative effects in the Elk Valley
- A *collaborative, consensus-based and transparent* process



# Principles

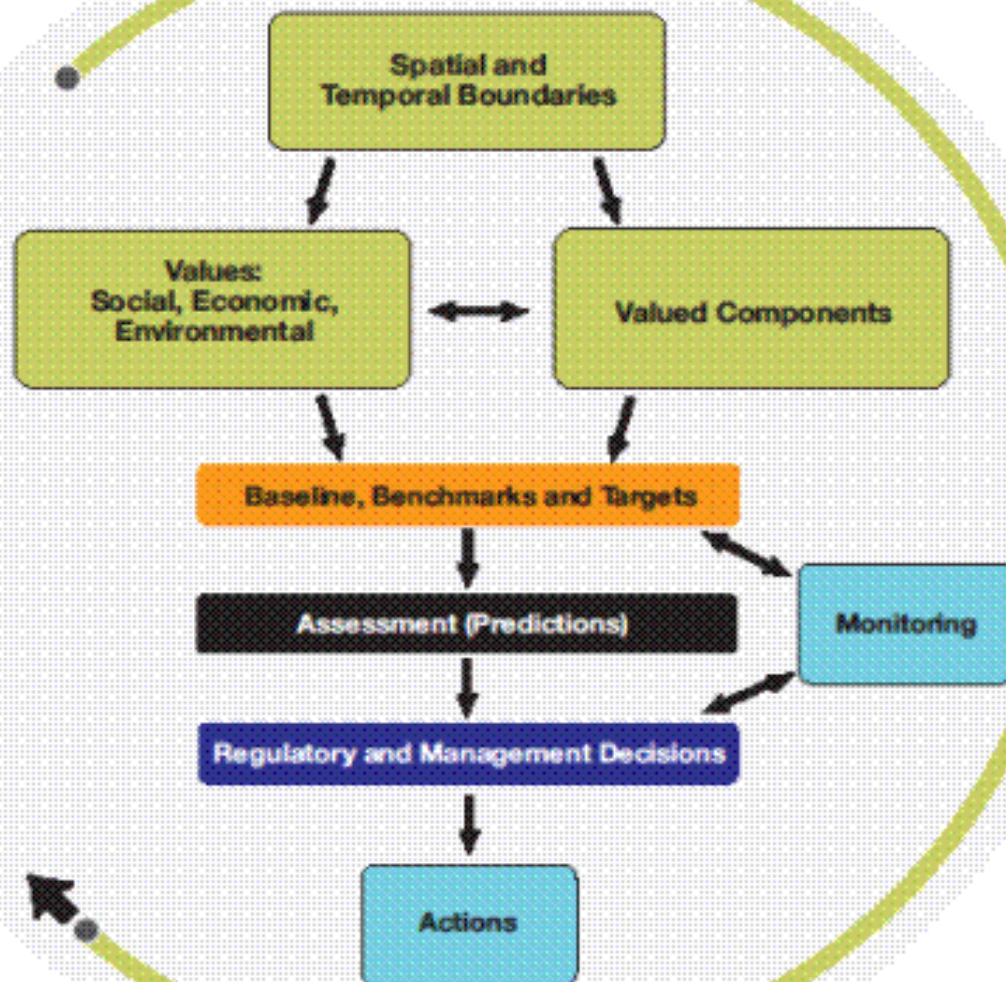
- 1. Collaboration**
- 2. Multi-stakeholder, consensus-based**
- 3. Direct link to decision making**
- 4. Manageable scope**
- 5. Adequate resourcing**
- 6. Adaptive to new information**



## THE FRAMEWORK



Iterations: Adapt To New Information



PHASE 1: Context

PHASE 2: Retrospective

PHASE 3: Prospective

PHASE 4: Management



# Maintaining Engagement

## Working Group

- Members represent industry (Teck, Canfor), provincial government, municipal government, the Ktunaxa First Nation and NGOs

## Workshops

- A broader group of participants
- the source of legitimacy for the CEMF as a consensus-based, collaborative endeavour





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MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

# Keys to Engagement

- Accessible language, with common definitions
- Links with related, relevant activities
- Understanding who makes what decisions
- Knowing the needs of the end users (i.e., decision makers)
- Keeping CEMF alive over political cycles and mandates

# Successes So Far

- ✓ Continuing involvement from a wide range of stakeholder groups over 2 and a half years
- ✓ Consensus on:
  - Spatial and temporal boundaries
  - Valued Components
  - Indicators
- ✓ Key Questions with direct links to decision makers
- ✓ Recent move to leadership by the province

## Integration with the provincial cumulative effects framework

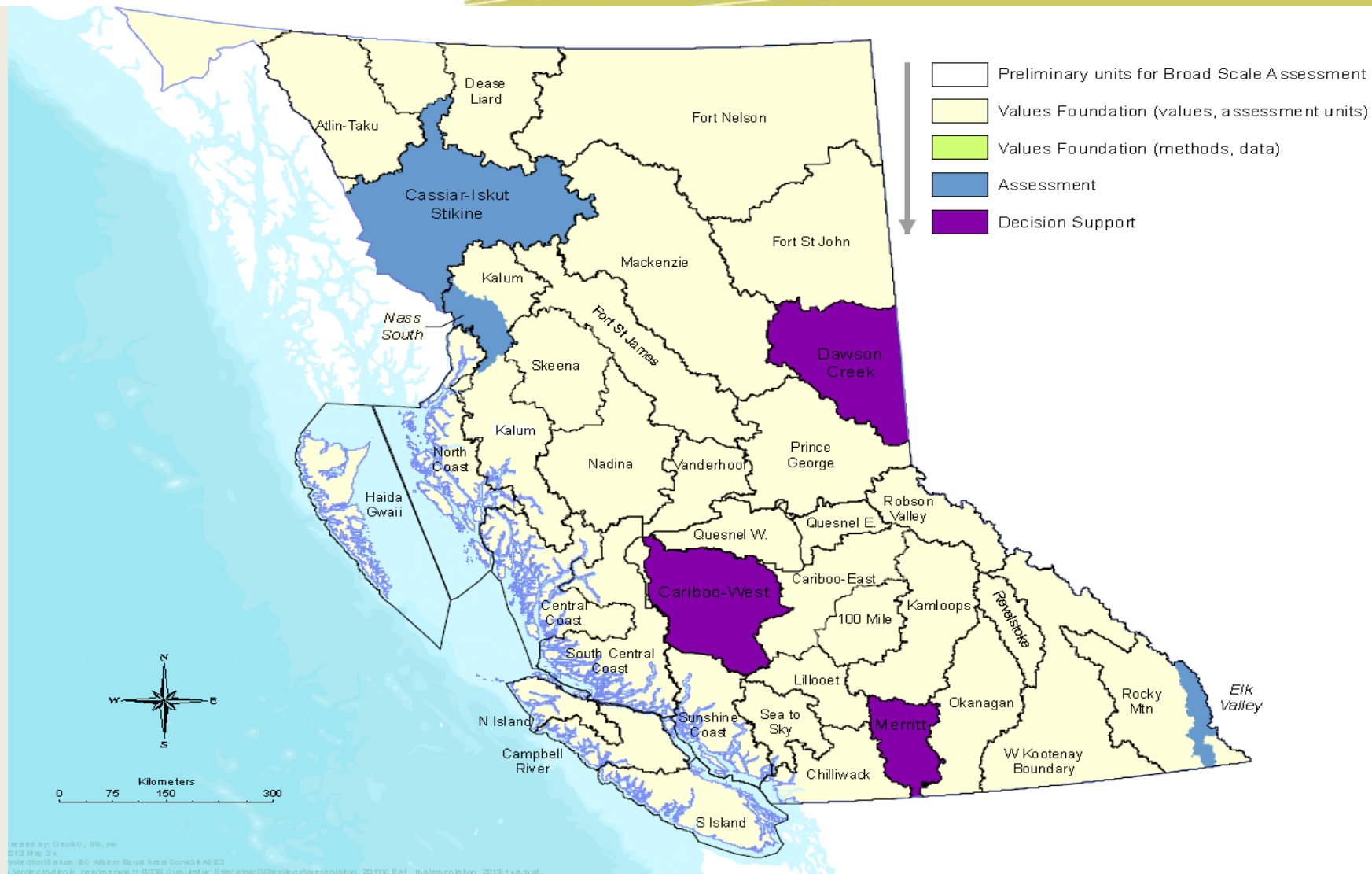
New Chair of the Working Group is a provincial hire

- Will identify and access expertise and information within government
- Will coordinate between CEMF and other provincial cumulative effects projects
- Will identify where there are differences in approach between CEMF and other provincial cumulative effects projects and participate in addressing these differences in a manner that remains faithful to CEMF's principles



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# Integration with the Provincial CE Approach



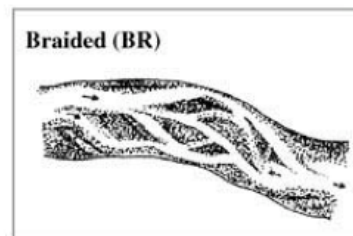
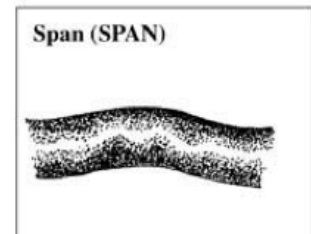
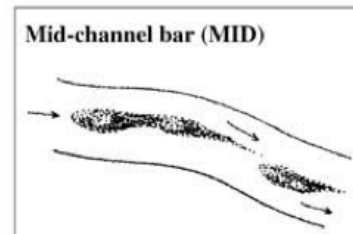
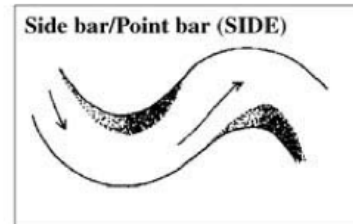


## Coordination and Facilitation

- Province, industry, Ktunaxa and NGOs all have information and experience to contribute
- Finding time is a major challenge for all participants
- An implementation team is essential (largely to be provided by the province)

# Example of Analysis: Riparian Habitat VC

Relationships among watershed-scale indicators such as road density, riparian habitat condition, and channel morphology



# Examples of Key Questions from Decision Makers

- ☐ What factors contribute to the current condition of the riparian habitat?
- ☐ How does the past compare with current conditions in the riparian zone? Have there been discernible trends?
- ☐ What watershed management is currently practiced and how well is current watershed management working in the riparian zone?

# Thoughts to Go Home With

- ❖ Cumulative effects assessment is too big a topic for a project-by-project approach
- ❖ Engagement of multiple stakeholders from the beginning, even if difficult and time-consuming, has a greater chance of producing broadly supported cumulative effects management
- ❖ Decision makers must be involved
- ❖ Explicit connections with broad policy objectives are required (e.g. land use objectives)