

SDNA Newsletter

November 2022

NON-INVASIVE METHODS TO MONITOR CARIBOU

SDNA led a non-invasive monitoring project for the Species-at-Risk Southern Mountain Caribou. Monitoring took place over two weeks in early October and involved collecting caribou fecal samples or "pellets" to obtain DNA. The DNA can now be used to estimate herd population size, health, and determine how connected the herds are. Sampling took place in and around Tweedsmuir, Entiako, and Itcha-Ilgatchuz Provincial Parks. Members of Southern Dakelh Nations and Ulkatcho First Nation participated in the field work. The project is a collaboration with SDNA, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and BC Caribou Recovery Program.

Questions or comments about the project can be directed to SDNA Wildlife Biologist: Dr. Pauline Priadka at wildlifebiologist@dakelh.ca or (250)398-3375 ext: 304.



TRADITIONAL WELLNESS

What is Traditional Wellness to you?

By Annette Loe

What are the old ways that you use to keep feeling healthy and strong?

We have heard, "time on the land, we all worked together" "teaching by watching" "bring back spiritual practices" "listen to the Elders" "follow protocol – if you don't know, ask"

This is the information we are seeking from you in the Traditional Wellness Inventory being facilitated by Annette Loe. Through talking with you, we can get the good stuff, get the information that is needed to help SDNA in its planning to bring the good ways back. SDNA has partnered with the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) in this project.

The 1st part/phase is complete, and a report is available, the 2nd part/phase has started. If you want a report or want to share what you know, contact Annette Loe and we can sit down and visit. It will be good to hear from you.

Questions or comments can be directed to Annette Loe at advise.wellness@dakelh.ca or (250) 500-1275



GREASE TRAIL TOUR

The Aspen tree leaves were golden yellow and the weather was perfect. On Wednesday, September 28, eight people toured three places on the Nuxalk Carrier Grease Trail.

From km 64 on the Grease Trail on Batnuni Road, we walked about a kilometer east on the Trail to an old forestry bridge. This was through 2010 fire landscape, according to Florian Bergion, Nazko Natural Resources Manager. Some of the new trees were reaching two meters in height.

Nazko Councilor Anthony Perry told us the Dakelh Dené packed grease from Bella Coola Nuxalk on this route across the Rockies to the Cree people. He later located the place where the original bridge had been over the creek.

After a lunch stop further west on the trail, we doubled back and up to Blackwater Crossing. About 100 meters up the trail going west was a beautiful view on the fall landscape. For some, it was a first visit on the Grease Trail so it was much appreciated.

By Bert Groeneberg Picture from left to right: Corina Clement (CCTC), Jake Neustater (Lhtako), Bert Groenenberg (SDNA), Anthony Perry (Nazko Councilor), Chad Patrick (Nazko), Florian Bergoin (Nazko), Cassandra Abel (SDNA), Valerie Setah (SDNA), Loretta Williams (SDNA). Photo credit: Corina Clement

SDNA STAFF CORNER

This month we would like to introduce to you Cheryl Lidster.

Cheryl is the Accountant for SDNA and CCTC. She studied accounting in the Certified General Accountant program (uncompleted) and is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting at Athabasca University.

Cheryl moved to Williams Lake from Saskatchewan in August of 2020. Due to her husband's work, she has lived in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. She enjoys the Cariboo and really appreciates the milder winters compared to the prairies. Cheryl has two grown daughters that live in Ontario and Saskatchewan so she spends time travelling to visit them as much as she can. She is also an avid reader and likes to sew quilts in her spare time.



In her role as the Accountant, Cheryl is responsible for the financial areas of SDNA and CCTC. She completes the monthly bank reconciliations, ensures that the financial month end processes are completed, oversees the collection of outstanding account receivables, and completes the required financial reporting for funding agreements.

You can reach Cheryl at 250-398-3375 Ext 311 or via email at accountant@dakelh.ca

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

We are currently moving forward with the Children and Families project. We would like to take MCFD out of the picture when it comes to the safety and wellbeing of our children on and off reserve. The Communities requested that SDNA complete community engagement with the communities to determine where they would like to be in the future with regards to jurisdiction over the children in their communities. We would like to get to a place where we can create laws to assist our children to be looked after, our way, not of how MCFD is managing the system currently. The current process does not work for the betterment of our Children and Families. We would like to hear your experience, have your input, and write the unspoken traditional laws down on paper. Please join us when the Children and Families Sharing Circles are scheduled in your community.

Please keep a look out for postings for Sharing Circles within your communities.

We will be supplying lunch and door prizes.

Lhoosk'uz Sharing Circle (in community) - October 19, 2022

Lhtako – to be determined (keep a look our for postings)

Nazko – to be determined (keep a look out for postings)

By Loretta Williams (SDNA—Community Engagement Coordinator)



Recreation of petroglyphs in Chase, BC Photo credit: Loretta Williams

The SDNA office will be closed for Remembrance Day on Friday November 11, 2022

