

4.4 Next steps

The goal of the Okanagan EFN Project was to produce defensible, transparent and robust EFN values for Okanagan streams. Following completion of this technical exercise, the initial next step is for the larger community to review the EFN and critical flow recommendations for each stream. This will include a review by ONA bands for creeks within their areas of responsibility. The Phase I Report (Associated 2016) should be updated with the changes to the methods described above and any changes identified during the review phase.

Upon agreement on this technical report, there will be a collaborative effort to set final EFNs that balance water demands with ecological needs within a socio-economic context. The focus of this next step will be to identify societal values, and allow for the ability to understand, identify, and make informed decisions as they relate to tradeoffs that exist between EFNs and societal demands (Associated 2016). The undertaking would conclude with the development of an implementation plan. On behalf of ONA, the ONA Natural Resource Council and Chiefs Executive Committee will be engaged in implementation planning with the long term goal of using EFNs for Okanagan water law development.

k^wu_yŋayŋát i?_k^wu_sqilx^w kscpúta?stm áfi? ýlmix^wmtət i?_siwłk^w.

Water must be treated with reverence and respect.

áfi? i? n^xwłx^włtañtət lut kstañmúsmñtm, áfi? ksctxłstim yŋayŋat i?_stim.

Our relationship with water is not taken lightly, we are responsible to ensure that our relation can continue to maintain the health and resiliency of our land and animals.

-Excerpt, Okanagan Water Declaration, July 31, 2014