



**COLUMBIA BASIN
FISH & WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION
PROGRAM**



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McGinty Lake Enhancement Project

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FOR
Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program

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Introduction:

McGinty Lake is a small lake located approximately 8 kilometers northeast of Kimberley, BC. The area supports a variety of wildlife species, including waterfowl, shorebirds, elk and badger. People use the area for recreational purposes, including hiking, cross-country skiing and skating.

The water level of McGinty Lake is dependent solely upon the water table, and is therefore susceptible to drought. In addition, the riparian area around the lake is subject to damage by cattle and 4-wheel drive vehicles. These factors caused local wildlife groups, conservation organizations and government agencies to consider the enhancement potential of the lake.

In 1999, the Ministry of Agriculture, through their Grazing Enhancement Fund, installed a fence around McGinty Lake in an attempt to protect the riparian area from vehicles and cattle. In the spring of 2000, the Kimberley Wildlife and Wilderness Club (KWWC) submitted a proposal for the enhancement of the lake to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (CBFWCP). Phases 1 and 2 of a potentially three-phase project have now been completed.

Project Objectives:

The objective of this project is to increase and maintain the water level of McGinty Lake.

Project Description:

In order to increase the water level of McGinty Lake, it was proposed that water be pumped from Mather Creek west of Highway 95A, through private property adjacent to the creek and under the highway to a small pond approximately 100 meters to the east of the highway. Phase 1 of the project involved drilling a hole beneath Highway 95A and installing six-inch casing. This phase was completed in the fall of 2000.

For Phase 2, two Gould pumps were installed in Mather Creek at a small dam owned by Fred Howe, whose property is situated between the creek and Highway 95A (Figure 2). From the dam, four-inch piping was installed underground through Mr. Howe's property, through the casing under the highway and terminated at a small pond on the east side of the highway (Figure 3). From the pond, gravity directs the water to McGinty Lake, approximately 1 km to the east.

During spring freshet, water is pumped at a rate of 130 gallons per minute. The potential exists for a second pipe to be installed from the creek to the pond, if deemed necessary to increase the flow of water to McGinty Lake. Alternatively, the pipeline itself could be extended directly to the lake; this step would constitute Phase 3 of the project.

Results to Date:

According to Glynn Killins of the KWWC, who has been monitoring this project, the level of McGinty Lake is currently higher than it was last spring (Figure 4), and there is a significantly larger riparian area around the lake (pers. comm.). Whether this is a direct result of the pump system or simply due to the spring thaw has yet to be determined. Further monitoring of the lake will reveal the necessity of increasing the volume of water or piping it directly to the lake.



Figure 1: Pipe exiting ground on South side of Highway 95A

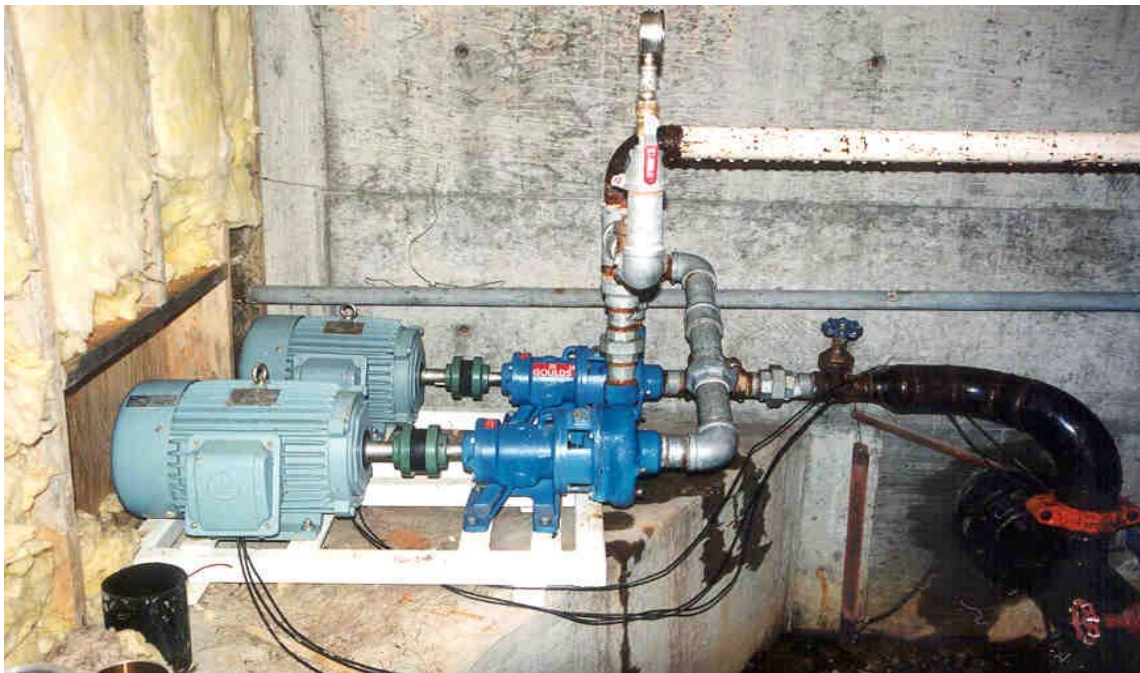


Figure 2: Gould pumps at Mather Creek dam



Figure 3: Water outlet and pond edge on south side of Highway 95A



Figure 4: Eastern shore of McGinty Lake facing north, June 3, 2002.