

Report to NEEF

Cheslatta Lidar Project

Nov 14, 2021

By Mike Robertson, Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Project Activities and Results

**Data Collection Completed 2018

**Extensive Compilation and Programming

** Summer 2019 – 2021

Conducted extensive on the ground “ground-truthing” reconnaissance activities.

Conducted and Initiated by the Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Purpose:

*confirm noted anomalies discovered in data reviews.

*Confirm locations of human caused ground surface disturbances ie: trails,
graves/cemeteries, house/cache pits, etc.

*Confirm timber types and volumes.

**July 2019

Shared complete data hard-drive with Rio Tinto and Knight Piesold at no cost

Paquin, Simon (RTA) simon.paquin@riotinto.com (Montreal)

To be integrated into data set for Kenney Dam Release Facility projects.

The ultimate project to stabilize Nechako River flows, with a natural hydrograph,
released directly into the main stem river bed that has been dry since 1952..

**May 2020

Lidar data indicate previously unknown burial grounds at east end of Cheslatta Lake

Archaeologists and Cheslatta personnel attend site and recover 4 skulls and various
remains as a result of erosion due to high water releases from spillway.

**Oct 2020

Shared complete data hard-drive with BC at no cost

Anne Marie Roberts, Anne-Marie FLNR:EX AnneMarie.Roberts@gov.bc.ca

Integrated into data set for Tweedsmuir Caribou Recovery Initiative. Cheslatta become
the prime support contractor for rehabilitation work on Pork Chop Island project.

**Feb 2021

Integrate CCN Lidar and RT Bathymetric data to create “Nechako Reservoir 101” Video

Andrew Czornohalan Andrew.Czornohalan@riotinto.com

The New Day Nechako Reservoir Stewardship Working Group, CCN and RT, agreed to
financially support the Cheslatta production of “Nechako Reservoir 101” a video/graphic presentation to
illustrate the complexities of how the reservoir was created and how it operates today. Since Sept.
2021, the draft “Res 101” has been presented to: Major Projects Coalition, Nechako Nations, Govt. of
BC, Rio Tinto, UNBC, and the Nechako Watershed Roundtable. Upcoming presentations will include
NKDF and NEEF.

**May 2021

Tatichek Archaeology Project

Dana Evaschuk, arch@pathfinderltd.ca

Miles and Denise Fuller, mdfuller75@gmail.com

As a result of the 2020 ground-truthing field work, significant and historic human occupation sites were confirmed, primarily on the shores of Tetachuk Lake. CCN retained Dana Evaschuk, Senior Archaeologist to conduct extensive reconnaissance. As a result, Cheslatta is preparing to embark on an extensive, multi-year archaeological excavation of the only known, un-flooded, pre-contact village sites in the entire Nechako Reservoir. Cheslatta is entering discussions with Rio Tinto on possible partnership opportunities regarding sponsorship and preservation.

Conclusion

The **Cheslatta Lidar Project** has provided landmark data for a very diverse set of legacy projects as described above.

While NEEF provided one half of the \$400,000 required to collect and rarify the data, the Cheslatta Carrier Nation matched that contribution and have invested further significant capital to derive the highest use of the raw data captured by the initial project.

Cheslatta has also enthusiastically shared this valuable data at no cost to BC and Rio Tinto in order to further projects that will assist the vast environment of the Nechako Reservoir on a long journey of healing and restoration of its natural self, after 70 years of industrial desecration.

The Cheslatta Lidar Project stands alone as the project that completely fulfills the original mandate of the Nechako Environmental Enhancement Fund.

For more information, please contact Mike Robertson, Cheslatta Carrier Nation.
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