



West Kootenay EcoSociety

Activating people through leadership and education

What is Small Hydropower?

The IPPs for hydroelectricity projects are termed run-of-river (ROR). These small hydro projects are promoted as a 'green' source of electricity and the name run-of-river conjures images of a relatively benign development, where the river simply flows over a mild intrusion. When considering energy alternatives there is an important distinction to be made between 'clean' and 'green' energy. Wherein hydroelectricity is 'clean' in that it is a low-carbon source of energy, it is not necessarily 'green'. The development of a single ROR project can potentially include the construction of multiple roads, pipelines, dams, water diversion, and transmission lines. While it is possible to build run-of-river with relatively low impact compared to other forms of energy development, this has not been the case across BC. The plan to build hundreds of these projects across BC has warranted grave concern about the cumulative impacts of these projects, including the impacts from the accompanying spider network of transmission lines. The planning and development of these projects in British Columbia have outpaced consideration for the specific and cumulative impacts these projects have on our region's economy, society, and environment, and the potentially devastating environmental impacts beg the question of whether these are truly 'green' sources of energy.

Click the link below to read Watershed Watch Salmon Society Article:

The Citizens guide to Run of River

<http://www.watershed-watch.org/publications/files/RoR-CitizensGuide.pdf>

West Kootenay EcoSociety
206-507 Baker St. Nelson, BC V1L 4J2
Phone/Fax: (250) 354-1909
info@ecosociety.ca
www.ecosociety.ca