

CWSF 2012 - Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Micah May

Snow's Deep Mystery in the West Kootenay Region of B.C.

Challenge: Environment

Category: Junior

Region: West Kootenay & Boundary

City: South Slokan, BC

School: Trafalgar Junior Secondary

Abstract: Knowing that scientists tested snow near the Alberta oil sands and found evidence of pollution, I decided to test the snow in my region. I tested snow from both high and low elevations to determine if wood smoke was affecting the pH and resulting in suspended or dissolved solids as many people heat their homes with wood and ash is known to be alkaline.

Biography

Micah May was born and still lives in Nelson, B.C., a community known for deep powder skiing. His love of backcountry skiing in the mountains began at age eight. Having read that scientists in Alberta tested snow and found pollutants, which led to a \$50 million/year commitment to environmental monitoring, Micah wondered what is in the snow around his home. This started a two year journey to study snow, which has produced some surprising results and created an interest to continuing to pursue the mystery. Micah has enjoyed combining his passion for the outdoors with learning through scientific study. His advice to other students is to follow your passions and let that lead you to the scientific questions that are meaningful to you. Micah is active in sports; this past year he qualified for the provincial cross-country running championships and was assistant captain of his rep-level hockey team. He is currently playing rep soccer and hopes his team will qualify for provincials. Micah is in grade 8 French Immersion at Trafalgar Middle School.