

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2015

Salmon, Bears and Owls Benefit from Conservation Projects

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves 2015 Projects

CAMPBELL RIVER – Salmon, owls and bears will all benefit from four hands-on restoration projects announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP).

In the Elk Falls area, gravel placement infrastructure to improve salmon spawning habitat will continue with support from the FWCP. Funding will also be used to continue creating new habitat for over-wintering black bears. The innovative use of culverts as dens in an area where naturally occurring dens are in short supply has been successful in other watersheds and will be tested here. The third project announced today will increase the availability of nest boxes for the small at-risk Western screech-owl.

All of these hands-on projects are expected to have almost immediate benefits to the target species.

Together the four local projects will receive more than \$150,000 from the FWCP, which conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. Learn more at fwcp.ca.

These projects get underway this spring and conclude by early 2016. They are among 41 projects approved by the FWCP-Coastal Region Board, which will provide approximately \$2 million in projects this year.

The Board, which includes First Nations, public stakeholders, BC Hydro, the Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, funds projects that align with its watershed and action plans. The Board may direct funds later in the year to other projects it deems a priority for the region.

“Each project we approve for funding aligns with our local Action Plans, and goes through a technical review before being reviewed by our Board members who make the final decisions,” says FWCP Manager, Trevor Oussoren.

The FWCP-Coastal Region includes Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Southern Interior.

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For more information contact

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Suggested Caption: Endangered Western screech-owls are one of many species-at-risk that benefit from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program's (FWCP) commitment to work towards thriving fish and wildlife populations in the watersheds where it works. FWCP projects aimed at this small raptor have helped decision-makers determine its status, currently rated as endangered in B.C., and threatened nationally. (fwcp.ca)

Photo Credit: Jared Hobbs

FWCP BACKGROUNDER

FWCP Overview

- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and Public Stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.
- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) funds conservation and enhancement projects in its Coastal, Columbia and Peace regions.
- The FWCP's Regional Boards approved 124 fish and wildlife projects for 2015-16 with a combined value of approximately \$8.9 million.
- FWCP funds are provided by BC Hydro and managed in a partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and the public.

FWCP Fish and Wildlife Projects

- Projects that receive funding from the FWCP: align with the FWCP's strategic action plans; and are assessed based on technical merit, linkages to watershed-specific priorities, cost-effectiveness, level of partnership, and overall benefit to the FWCP's mandate and vision.
- Eleven First Nations are directly involved in the delivery of FWCP-funded projects including:
 - **FWCP-Coastal** approved applications were received from the following: Pacheedaht First Nation; Katzi First Nation; K'omoks First Nation; Splitsin First Nation; Split Rock Environmental (St'at'imc First Nation); and the Lillooet Tribal Council.
 - **FWCP-Peace** approved applications were received from the following: Kwadacha First Nation; Doig River First Nation; and the Tsay Keh Dene Nation (with several other First Nations involved in delivery of other projects where they will support the lead proponent in project implementation).
 - **FWCP-Columbia** approved applications received from the following: Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA); and the Ktunaxa Nation Council.
- The FWCP often works with partners; it may be one of many funders supporting important fish and wildlife conservation efforts or it may be the sole funder.
- For a summary of the 2015-16 fish and wildlife projects funded by the FWCP across the province, and information on how you can apply for a FWCP grant next year, visit fwcp.ca.

