

For Immediate Release
April 27, 2015

Restoration of Salmon Habitat Will Continue

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves Funding for 2015 Projects

SQUAMISH-WHISTLER – Two projects announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) will support ongoing efforts to restore important spawning habitat along the Cheakamus River and restore a log sort yard into a functioning tidal salt marsh.

The Squamish River Watershed Society, together other partners, will receive funding from the FWCP that will support their ongoing efforts to restore spawning and rearing habitat for coho, chinook, pink and chum salmon, as well as cutthroat and steelhead trout. This project will build on recent restoration efforts in the Dave Marshall Salmon Reserve.

The second local project approved for FWCP funding will be used to restore the former West Barr Log Sort to a functioning salt marsh. By re-grading the site, the Society hopes to create spawning and overwintering habitat, plant native vegetation, add interpretive signage and establish the site as a living classroom.

Together, the two local projects will receive more than \$190,000 from the FWCP, which conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. Learn more at fwcp.ca.

“The Cheakamus River is home to a variety of important fish species, and restoring spawning habitat will provide a broad range of benefits for wildlife throughout the river corridor,” said Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky. “These projects are made possible through partnerships with government, stakeholders and First Nations, and uphold our commitment to preserving the environment and building a cleaner, sustainable community.”

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 towards fish and wildlife 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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Suggested caption: Chinook salmon, as well as coho, pink and chum, will benefit from ongoing work to improve spawning habitat in the Cheakamus River watershed. The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program announced it will provide funding to continue this local habitat restoration work. (fwcp.ca)

Photo Credit: Squamish River Watershed Society.

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.