

**For Immediate Release**  
**April 27, 2015**

## **Local Elk and Other Species-at-Risk Projects Approved**

### **Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves Funding for 2015 Projects**

**SQUAMISH** – The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) announced today that it will fund two local projects that will benefit species-at-risk in the Clowhom River watershed.

The first project will focus on mapping winter range and summer foraging habitat for the blue-listed or vulnerable Roosevelt Elk, the largest of the elk family found only in B.C.'s coastal areas. The second project will map local wetlands and the species that rely on these vital wetland habitats. Both research projects are critical to determining next steps to protect elk habitat, and planning to conserve wetlands for the species that depend on them.

Together, the two local projects in the Clowhom River watersheds will receive more than \$90,000 from the FWCP, which conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

“In order to protect at-risk species, we must also look after the habitats they depend on,” said Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky. “These conservation efforts will help us determine the best way we can restore elk numbers and preserve the wildlife and ecology that sustain them.”

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. Learn more at [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).

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:** Local Roosevelt elk, the largest of B.C.'s elk, are the focus of a habitat-mapping project announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. ([fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca))

Photo Credit: Flickr

## 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](http://fwcp.ca).