



Coastal Region
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Tell Us Your Fish & Wildlife Priorities for the Ash River Watershed

You're Invited: Port Alberni, Tues. Jan. 10, from 1 – 4:30 p.m.

(PORT ALBERNI) What would you do to support species and conserve their habitats? What priorities and projects would you focus on? The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) wants to hear your ideas. Help define FWCP priorities for fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. Please join the discussion in Port Alberni on Tuesday, January 10 at the Best Western Plus Barclay Hotel, 4277 Stamp Avenue. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Discussion starts at 1 p.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. More details are at fwcp.ca.

“We’re starting a discussion today that will help guide the conservation and enhancement projects we fund and deliver in the Ash River watershed for the next five years,” says FWCP’s Program Manager, Trevor Oussoren. “Our updated Action Plans will help determine the types of projects we fund and the species we focus on.”

The Port Alberni workshop is a chance to review and discuss potential conservation priorities, research and hands-on projects for the Ash River watershed. Draft priorities and projects will be online for review at fwcp.ca one week prior to the discussion.

The process to renew and update the FWCP’s Watershed Action Plans started on Vancouver Island in November 2016. By summer 2017, renewed Action Plans will be developed for each of the 14 watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams that make up the FWCP’s Coastal Region.

“Our Action Plans need to reflect the unique fish and wildlife needs in each watershed. That’s why we’re talking with government, First Nations, stakeholders and the public. And we hope interested groups and individuals will join us in Port Alberni,” says Oussoren pointing to the FWCP’s ongoing work in the watershed.

Between 2010 and 2016, we funded three projects in the Ash River watershed: two addressed our priorities for conserving and enhancing lakes and reservoirs, and one addressed our conservation priorities for riparian areas and wetlands.

With our support, successful grant applicants worked on a fish passage Action Plan for the Ash River, and improved the science and understanding about the genetically distinct Steelhead Salmon and how to conserve it. Floating habitat islands were tested and monitored. In total, we invested approximately \$95,000, which was awarded to stewardship groups, First Nations, agencies and consultants who developed proposals to deliver these important projects. Read our final project reports at fwcp.ca.

The 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.

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For More Information

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