



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.

Message from the Board Chair

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2015-16. This plain language document reports on key highlights, decisions and expenditures between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, for our Coastal Region. Annual Reports for the other two regions, Columbia and Peace, which make up the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), are also available at fwcp.ca.

Our Coastal Region includes watersheds on Vancouver Island, in the Lower Mainland, Southern Interior and the Mainland Coast, where BC Hydro generation facilities exist. In total, 14 watersheds in some of the most densely populated portions of B.C., comprise our Coastal Region. Our work in this region is voluntarily funded by BC Hydro, which operates 14 dams across our Coastal Region.

Our work in this region is guided by a diverse nine-member Board that includes our partners: First Nations, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Public Stakeholders, and BC Hydro. Together, we work to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. The Board is responsible for all funding decisions and provides oversight on our activities in each watershed.

In 2015-16, a focus of the Program was on the development of a new website that has helped us tell our story and showcase more of the great projects we support. The FWCP Team also continued to develop a new online grant management system, which has streamlined our fish and wildlife grants, and allows us to manage the information on the type of projects we fund. The website and grant management system were launched in the fall of 2015.

These new initiatives are in addition to managing delivery of the 43 fish and wildlife projects approved by our Coastal Region Board during its annual intake and review of grant applications. The 23 wildlife and 20 fish projects represent a total investment this fiscal year of over \$2 million. Species- and habitat-based actions are the focus for the majority of projects approved by the Board, most of which are delivered by non-government organizations or First Nations, and are spread across the watersheds in which we work.

The energy and investment the Board has put into land-securement this year, has resulted in agreements with The Nature Trust of BC, the Nature Conservancy of Canada; Cumberland Community Forest Society and contributions to properties previously conserved by The Land Conservancy (TLC). Land securement has been a long-standing priority for the Board, as there are numerous pressures on the South Coast land-base.

Thank you to everyone who applied for a fish and wildlife grant, and who are actively engaged in helping conserve and enhance local fish and wildlife in our Coastal Region.

Sincerely,

Brian Assu

FWCP Coastal Region Chair



Front Cover

Culvert installation to improve access to fish habitat at Airpark Lagoon, Courtney, by Comox Valley Project Watershed Society.

Photo: Dan Bowen.

1.0 Organizational Overview

INTRODUCTION

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. We operate in three regions across the province of British Columbia: Coastal, Columbia and Peace. We are a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), First Nations, and Public Stakeholders.

We have invested more than \$142.8 million since 1988, and delivered more than 1,625 projects in our three regions.

Formerly known as the Bridge-Coastal Restoration Program, the FWCP's Coastal Region was established in 1999. This voluntary initiative was developed in response to First Nations and Stakeholder interests in addressing opportunities for restoration.

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

This Annual Report provides an overview of the activities and a financial performance report, as well as a project funding summary along with highlights from the year (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016) in 14 watersheds on Vancouver Island, the Mainland Coast, the Lower Mainland, and parts of the Southern Interior (e.g. Bridge, Seton and Shuswap river watersheds).

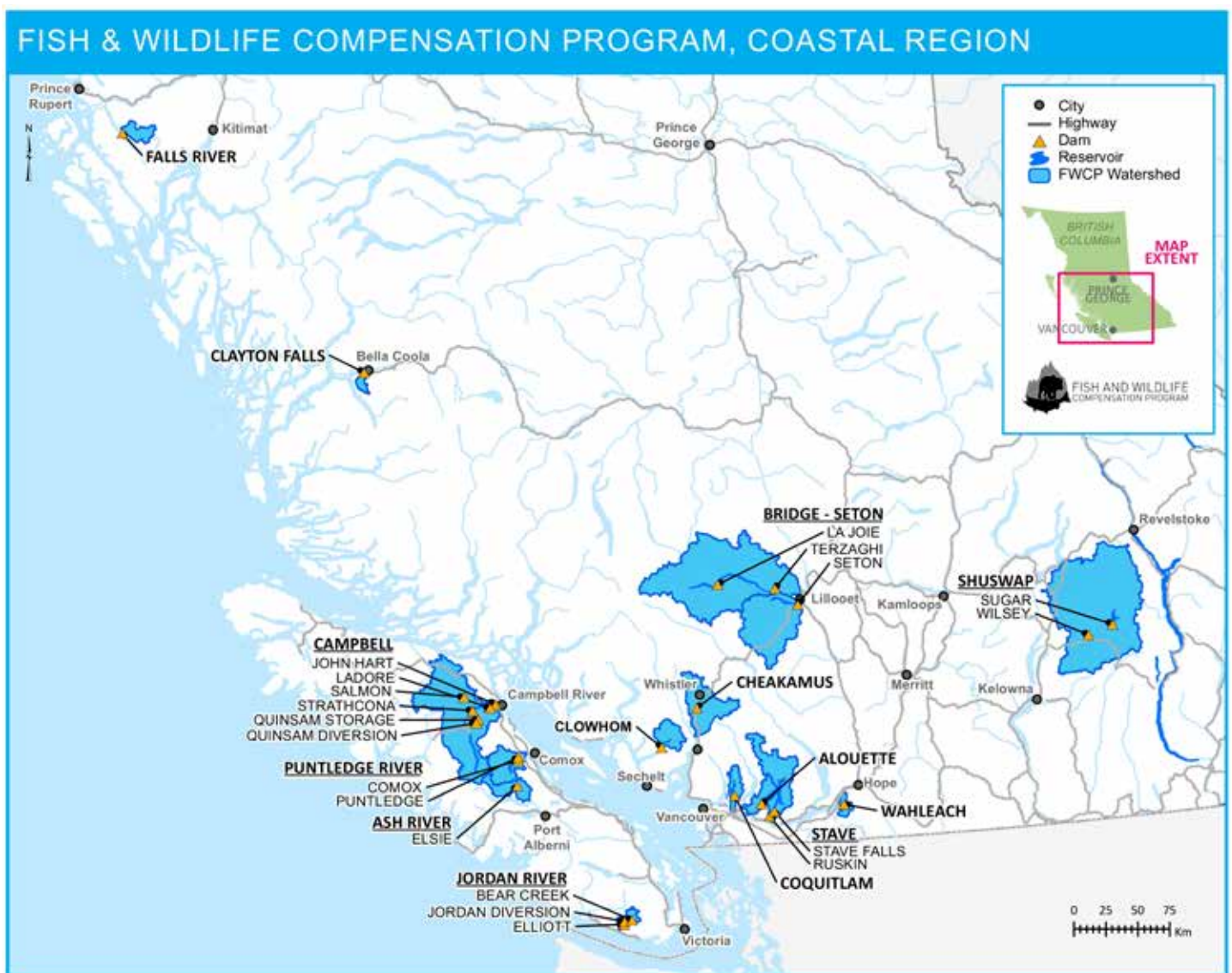


Figure 1.1 FWCP Coastal Region Map

GOVERNANCE

The FWCP's governance recognizes the regulatory accountabilities of our agency partners—BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., and Fisheries and Oceans Canada— and enables partnerships with First Nations and Public Stakeholders. Work in each region is guided by a local Board responsible for setting strategic priorities and approving annual expenditures, as well as our investments in conservation and enhancement projects.

The Board reports to the Policy Committee, representing the federal and provincial government regulators (DFO and the Province) and BC Hydro. The Policy Committee provides oversight to a range of fish and wildlife-related issues relevant to BC Hydro including, but not limited to, the FWCP. The current Policy Committee members are:

- Edie Thome, Director of Environmental Risk Management, BC Hydro
- Kaaren Lewis, Assistant Deputy Minister, B.C. Ministry of Environment
- Cheryl Webb, Regional Director Pacific Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Our Board is supported by four Technical Committees: one for wildlife projects, and three for fish projects (Lower Mainland, Southern Interior and Vancouver Island). Their primary roles are to support the development of strategic plans; provide advice on the effective implementation of Action Plans; and provide fair and objective technical review, evaluation, and ranking of fish and wildlife project proposals for the Annual Operating Plan.

In each region, a Regional Manager coordinates and manages all aspects of project delivery, and is supported by a Business Coordinator who provides support to all three regions.



Spawning gravel being dropped into Campbell River near John Hart Dam.

Photo: BCCF



Some of the FWCP Coastal Board members during a field trip in Courtney-Comox in fall 2015. Photo: Ian Routley



Orange-crowned warblers at the Mugaha Marsh Banding Station, Mackenzie, August 2015. Photo: Lena Ware

2.0 FWCP’s Strategic Framework

Our strategic framework guides planning for compensation investments (i.e. fish and wildlife projects) and supports our vision.

OUR VISION: Thriving fish and wildlife populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable.

Our vision supports the maintenance of healthy fish and wildlife populations in basins significantly altered by hydroelectric development – recognizing that “like-for-like” replacement is not always possible.

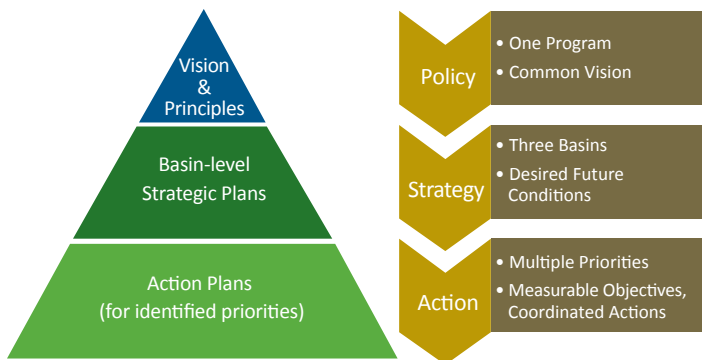


Figure 2.1
Relationship between FWCP’s Strategic Framework, Basin Strategic Plans and Action Plans.

1. Conservation

Maintain or improve the status of species or ecosystems of concern.

Maintain or improve the integrity and productivity of ecosystems and habitats. This addresses the concept of ecosystem integrity, resiliency and the functional elements of ecosystems, including efforts to optimize productive capacity.

2. Sustainable Use

Maintain or improve opportunities for sustainable use, including harvesting and other uses. This objective focuses on FWCP’s role in restoring or enhancing the abundance of priority species, and in providing information to resource management decision-makers related to providing opportunities for harvesting and other uses. Harvesting includes First Nations, recreational and commercial harvests. Other uses may include cultural, medicinal, or non-consumptive uses, such as wildlife-viewing.

3. Community Engagement

Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and Aboriginal communities. This objective stems from BC Hydro’s social responsibility policy, MOE’s shared stewardship goal and the approach of DFO’s Stewardship and Community Involvement Program. This recognizes the importance of engaging Aboriginal communities, local stakeholders and other interest groups, to contribute toward making good decisions and delivering effective projects.

3.0 FWCP Strategic Objectives and Strategic Plans

Fish and wildlife investments in each FWCP region are guided by Action Plans that were developed with local input and provide strategic guidance. In FWCP's Coastal Region, Action Plans exist for each of the 14 watersheds where FWCP operates. High-level watershed Plans set out the strategic direction for the Coastal Region and describe the specific watershed settings and general impacts that the creation of the generation facilities (i.e. construction of the dams, the development of hydro-power, and alterations in the hydraulic regimes of the systems) had on ecosystems, fish and wildlife habitat.

For the nine larger watersheds within the Coastal Region, three Action Plans address key priorities in the region: salmonids, species of interest, and riparian and wetland areas. In the five smaller watersheds, a single strategic document – Watershed Plan – provides both context and our priorities, for conserving and enhancing local fish and wildlife species.

4.0 Report on Performance

4.1 Financial Report

FWCP is funded by BC Hydro through a notional fund, which is indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). For F16, the annual funding budget from the notional fund for our Coastal Region was \$2.018M.

Each year, our Board allocates funds in whole, or in part, toward fish and wildlife projects, administrative costs (e.g. salaries, safety, Board and Technical Review Committee expenses), project support and communication costs (e.g. Program evaluation, communications support, and advertising). These allocations form the Annual Operating Plan. Any unallocated funds are carried forward ("unspent surplus budget"), and are available for new spending in future fiscal years.

4.2 Approved Budget

For F16, the Board approved a budget of \$2.39 million, primarily toward fish and wildlife projects. The Board was able to approve slightly more than the F16 notional funding by drawing on funds from the unspent surplus budget from previous years. Figure 4.1 illustrates the approved F16 budget at the start of the fiscal year. A complete project list for F16 is found starting on page 9. Administrative costs made up approximately 7% of the total budget, and included all office-related expenditures (support staff, Board and Technical Committee costs, and office supplies that directly support FWCP). Project support costs in F16 included funding for uploading reports to the Provincial Data Warehouses (\$5k) and a placeholder for Board-directed projects (\$100k).

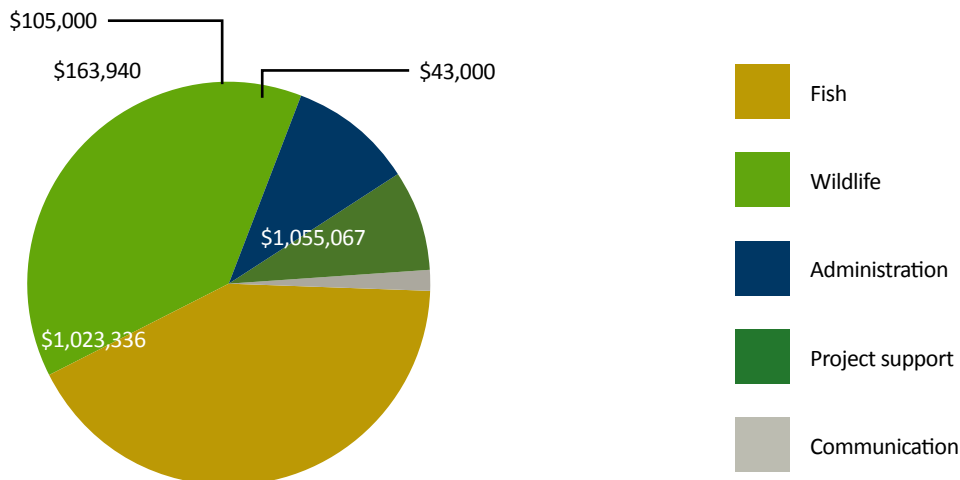


Figure 4.1 F16 Approved Budget at April 1, 2015.

4.3 Year-End Accounting

Program expenditures up to fiscal year-end March 31, 2016 are shown in Table 4.1. It should be noted that this reflects a “snapshot” in time of actual and planned payments made related to F16 projects. Each year, allocated project funding is not fully paid by year-end, due to the seasonal nature of field-based projects and the fact that many project proponents are unable to submit their final project reports for approval by the March 31st fiscal year-end. F16 allocated funds not yet paid by March 31, 2016 are labelled “Planned” in Table 4.1.

In addition, it is not uncommon for projects to come in under budget (“Unspent” in Table 4.1). Any funds not spent during the fiscal year will be carried forward as unspent surplus budget and made available for new project spending in future fiscal years. Over time, as additional projects remaining in the “Planned” category come in under budget, the Unspent amount for F16 may increase.

Table 4.1 Actual Budget at March 31, 2016.

Fund Category	F16 Approved Budget	Paid up to 31 March 2016	Planned Payments ¹	Unspent Funds ²
Fish	\$1,055,068	\$729,842	\$306,290	\$18,936
Wildlife	\$1,023,337	\$578,819	\$435,881	\$8,637
Administration	\$163,940	\$160,830	\$8,140	-\$5,031
Project Support	\$105,000	\$41,348	\$163,652	-\$100,000
Communications	\$43,000	\$38,872	\$2,884	\$1,244
TOTAL	\$2,390,344	\$1,549,712	\$916,847	(\$76,214)

Note 1: Planned payments represents expected invoices for approved, ongoing projects that have not yet submitted final reports by March 31st

Note 2: Unspent funds are carried forward and available for next fiscal year.

4.4 Approved Budget Allocation by Type

The approved F16 budget for our Coastal Region included \$1.023 million on wildlife-related projects (including a budget of \$304,000 for Land Securement) and \$1.055 million on fish-related projects, for a total of \$2.078 million. These projects were distributed across the watersheds we operate in, as shown in Figure 4.2. During 2015-16, the FWCP supported projects in 10 of 14 watersheds in the Coastal Region (exceptions include the Ash, Wahleach, Falls River and Clayton Falls). The Board continues to evaluate potential gaps in funding by setting priorities for funding during future application intakes.



Wolverines were one of the species supported this year. Photo: J. Krebs

4.5 Approved Budget Allocation by Type

The approved F16 budget for our Coastal Region included \$935,000 on wildlife-related projects (including a budget of \$344,000 for Property Securement and Management) and \$1.026 million on fish-related projects, for a total of \$1.961 million. These projects were distributed across the watersheds we operate in, as shown in Figure 4.2. During 2014-15 the FWCP supported projects in all 14 watersheds in the Coastal Region except in the Falls River and Wahleach watersheds. The Board continues to evaluate potential gaps in funding by setting priorities for funding during future application intakes.

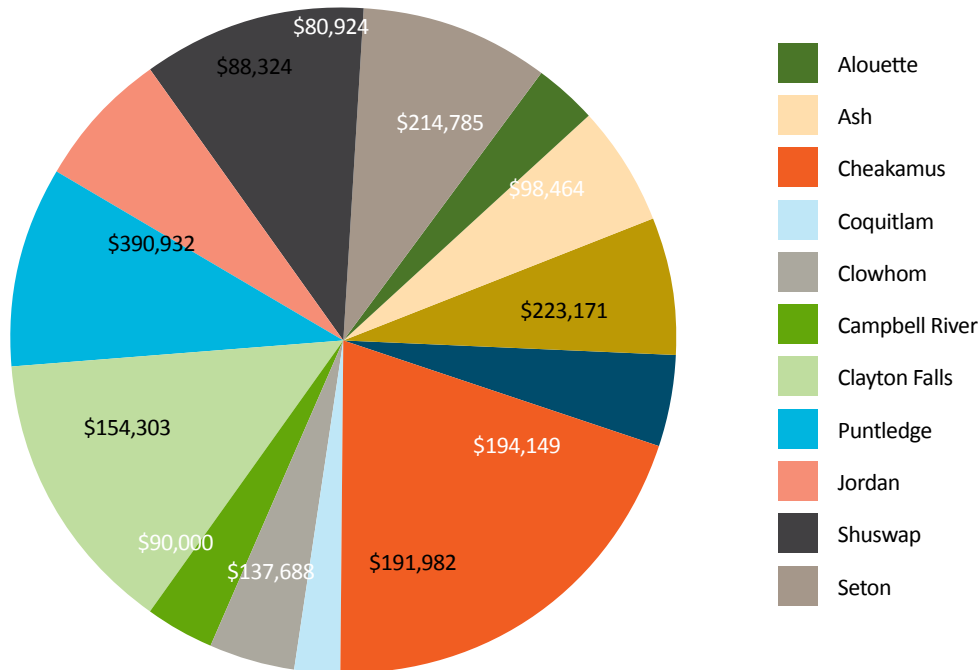


Figure 4.2 Projects By Watershed

5.0 Strategic Plan Accountability

As noted in Section 2.2, alignment with the strategic priorities identified in the Watershed Plans and Action Plans is a requirement to be eligible for an FWCP grant. It is a key consideration for the Technical Review Committees and Board during the project evaluation and selection process.

The FWCP Coastal Region Board recognizes the value of securing properties with high wildlife and/or fisheries values. The initial costs of acquiring conservation lands are high, however the benefits for fish and wildlife are long-term, if the properties are well-managed. FWCP does not take title, but supports other organizations in the ownership and management of the conservation lands.

In 2015-16, FWCP supported the following organizations in acquiring and managing conservation lands:

- Cumberland Community Forest Society – Perseverance Creek Wetland and Riparian Land Acquisition (\$220,000)
- The Nature Trust of BC (TNT) – Salmon River Estuary (78 ha), (\$220,000);
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) – contribution to the securement of high-value conservation properties previously owned by The Land Conservancy (TLC) - (1882 ha), (\$100,000); and
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) – contribution to the development of the Bridge/Seton Natural Area Conservation Plan (\$50,000).



Likely the last Woodland Mountain Caribou of the South Monashees, March 2016. Photo: Splitsin Nation

Tables 5.2 and 5.3 provide a listing of the projects selected for funding during F16, including their alignment with the Watershed and Action Plans.

Table 5.2 Fish Projects

Project Name	Lead Applicant	FWCP Contribution	Primary Project Type	Primary Action Plan Linkage
Monitoring the migration of <i>O. nerka</i> (Kokanee/Sockeye) from the Alouette Reservoir in 2015	Katzie First Nation	\$62,338	Research and Information	Alouette Salmonid AP
Mud Creek Sediment Pond Reactivation for 2015	Alouette River Management Society	\$34,262	Habitat-based	Alouette WP
Alouette Sockeye Adult Enumeration Project (Bridging Year for 2015)	Alouette River Management Society	\$16,354	Research and Information	Alouette Salmonid AP
Experimental Release of Hatchery-Reared Sea-Run Kokanee into Alouette Reservoir to Evaluate the Feasibility of Re-establishing Sockeye Salmon	Alouette River Management Society	\$40,000	Species-based	Alouette Salmonid AP
Elk Falls Canyon Spawning Gravel Delivery System	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	\$70,000	Habitat-based	Campbell River Salmonid AP
Notch Connector Intake and Flood Control Structure (Evans Creek Re-watering Phase 3)	Squamish River Watershed Society	\$122,546	Habitat-based	Cheakamus Salmonid AP
Central Estuary Brownfield Restoration Project (former WestBarr Log Sort)	Squamish River Watershed Society	\$69,436	Habitat-based	Cheakamus Salmonid AP
Sockeye Restoration in the Coquitlam Reservoir using Hatchery Intervention	Watershed Watch Salmon Society	\$40,000	Species-based	Coquitlam/Buntzen Salmonid AP
Evaluation of Coquitlam Reservoir Conditions for Outmigration of Sockeye Smolts	Watershed Watch Salmon Society	\$51,335	Species-based	Coquitlam/Buntzen Salmonid AP
Assessment of Groundwater and Tributary Sources for the Jordan River Side Channel	Pacheedaht First Nation	\$40,749	Monitoring and Evaluation	Jordan Watershed Plan
DNA analysis of Puntledge Summer Chinook	K'ómoks First Nation	\$34,450	Species-based	Puntledge Salmonid AP
Morrison Creek Fish Barrier Remediation	Current Environmental Ltd	\$29,572	Species-based	Puntledge Salmonid AP

Project Name	Lead Applicant	FWCP Contribution	Primary Project Type	Primary Action Plan Linkage
Courtenay Airpark Lagoon Dike Breach	Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	\$106,550	Habitat-based	Puntledge Salmonid AP
Stave River Watershed – Restoring Salmon Spawning, Rearing and Overwintering Habitat	Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition	\$48,466	Habitat-based	Stave Salmonid AP
Feasibility for Assessing Fish Entrainment at Wilsey Dam	Whitevalley Community Resource Centre Society	\$59,398	Research and Information	Shuswap Salmonid AP
Gates Creek Salmon Project	Lillooet Tribal Council	\$100,000	Monitoring and Evaluation	Bridge-Seton Salmonid AP
Campbell River Second Island Side Channel Access and Maintenance of Spawning Gravel 2015	Campbell River Salmon Foundation	\$50,000	Habitat-based	Campbell River Salmonid AP
Puntledge Upper Hatchery	DFO	\$17,000	Species-based	Puntledge Salmonid AP
Evaluation of Natural and Hatchery Summer Chinook and Coho	E. Guimond and Associates	\$79,000	Monitoring and Evaluation	Puntledge Salmonid AP
Assessment of Homing Behavior of 4- and 5-year-old Puntledge Summer Chinook Adult Returns from Lake- and River-Released Juveniles	Comox Valley Project Watershed	\$33,611	Monitoring and Evaluation	Puntledge Salmonid AP
Total Fish Projects		\$1,105,067		

Table 5.3 Wildlife Projects

Project Name	Lead Applicant	FWCP Contribution	Primary Project Type	Primary Action Plan Linkage
Perseverance Creek Wetland and Riparian Land Acquisition	Cumberland Community Forest Society	\$220,000	Land Securement	Puntledge Riparian and Wetland AP
Identify, Conserve and Restore Populations of Priority Species-at-Risk and their Associated Habitats within the Alouette River Watershed	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	\$41,195	Research and Information	Species of Interest AP
Grizzly Bear Habitat Selection within the South Chilcotin GBPU	Francis Iredale, FLNRO	\$85,100	Species-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
Ecosystem Services in the Bridge Seton Watersheds	Coldstream Ecology, Ltd.	\$4,999	Research and Information	Bridge-Seton Watershed Plan
Wolverine Inventory and Conservation in the Southern Coast Mountains	BC MOE	\$57,163	Species-based	Cheakamus Species of Interest AP
Bridge River Watershed Fisher Artificial Reproductive Den Box Study	Davis Environmental Ltd	\$40,900	Species-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
Assessment and Restoration of Mountain Goat Population in Shulaps Mountains	Bridge River Valley Wilderness Training and Stewardship Society	\$3,600	Species-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
5-Year Restoration of the Lillooet Sub-Population of Spotted Owl in British Columbia	MFLNRO	\$31,410	Species-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP

Project Name	Lead Applicant	FWCP Contribution	Primary Project Type	Primary Action Plan Linkage
VI Marmot – Buttle Lake Supplementation and Monitoring	Marmot Recovery Foundation	\$50,000	Research and Information/Species-based/Monitoring and Evaluation	Campbell River – Species of Interest AP
Creation of Black Bear Dens in the Campbell River Watershed	Artemis Wildlife Consultants	\$6,943	Habitat-based	Campbell River WP
Western Screech-Owl Habitat Enhancement and Inventory	Madrone Environmental Services Ltd	\$27,360	Habitat-based	Species of Interest AP
Surveys of Species-at-Risk and their Associated Habitats in the Clowholm Watershed – Year 3	Halcyon Professional Services	\$75,000	Research and Information	Clowholm WP
Development of a Roosevelt Elk Habitat Model for the South Coast	Madrone Environmental Services Ltd	\$15,000	Species-based	Clowholm WP
Coquitlam River Riparian Planting – Maintenance Year 3	Watershed Watch Salmon Society / Kwikwetlem First Nation	\$8,784	Habitat-based	Riparian and Wetlands AP
Species-at-Risk in the Coquitlam River and Buntzen Lake Watersheds	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	\$37,570	Species-based	Coquitlam/Buntzen Watershed: Species of Interest
Creation of Black Bear Dens in the Jordan River Watershed	Artemis Wildlife Consultants	\$47,575	Habitat-based	Jordan Watershed Plan
Species-at-Risk Conservation in the Stave River Watershed	Athene Ecological	\$49,998	Research and Info/Species-based/Habitat-based/Monitoring and Evaluation	Stave Wetland and Riparian AP
South Monashee Caribou Census	Spaltsin (Yucwmenlucwu (Caretakers of the Land) 2007 LLP	\$21,526	Research and Information	Shuswap Species of Interest AP
Seton River Corridor Conservation and Restoration Project – Phase 3b	Splitrock Environmental	\$70,000	Habitat-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
Whitebark Pine Restoration – Year 2	Keefer Ecological Services Ltd	\$14,785	Species-based	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
Powerhouse Foreshore Restoration Project – Maintenance Program	Splitrock Environmental	\$20,000	Monitoring and Evaluation	Bridge-Seton Species of Interest AP
LRISS Aquatic Invasives Project	Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society	\$10,000	Habitat-based	Bridge-Seton Riparian & Wetlands AP
Bridge/Seton Natural Area Conservation Plan	Nature Conservancy	\$50,000	Land Securement	Bridge-Seton Riparian & Wetlands AP
Total Wildlife Projects		\$988,908		
Total Fish and Wildlife Projects		\$2,093,975		

