



OVERVIEW: COASTAL REGION WATERSHED ACTION PLANS

October 2, 2017
FINAL

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program 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.

Table of Contents

Introduction to FWCP’s Strategic Framework: Vision, Mission & Objectives	4
FWCP Vision.....	4
FWCP Mission	4
FWCP Strategic Objectives.....	4
Introduction to FWCP’s Action Plans	5
Action Plan Content	6
Action Table Content.....	7
FWCP Project Investment Criteria	9
Updating Our Coastal Watershed Action Plans.....	9



Introduction to the FWCP

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is a partnership between B.C. Hydro, the Province of BC, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and Public Stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams. The FWCP funds projects that align with its mission and vision to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in 14 watersheds that make up its Coastal Region.

Introduction to this Action Plan Overview

This Action Plan Overview document provides a high-level introduction to our Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) vision, mission and strategic objectives based on our [2014 Governance Manual](#). This document provides grant applicants and others with important information about how our Action Plans are structured, including our Action Tables.

The Action Tables define the Priority Actions. These actions support our mission to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by construction of BC Hydro dams in each of the 14 watersheds that make up our Coastal Region. We fund projects that align with our Priority Actions in each Action Table.

[Contact us](#) if you have questions about this Overview, our Action Plans, the Priority Actions recommended in each Action Plan, or your grant application.

Learn more about the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, projects underway now, and how you can apply for a grant at fwcp.ca. Subscribe to our free email updates and annual newsletter at www.fwcp.ca/subscribe. Contact us anytime at fwcp@bchydro.com.

INTRODUCTION TO FWCP'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: VISION, MISSION & OBJECTIVES

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) was established to compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife and their supporting habitat resulting from the construction of BC Hydro generation facilities. The FWCP is funded by BC Hydro and operates in three regions of British Columbia: Coastal, Columbia and Peace. In the Peace and Columbia regions, the FWCP is in place to meet conditions related to the protection or enhancement of fish and wildlife and their habitat in BC Hydro's Water Licences¹ issued under the provincial *Water Act*; the FWCP is a voluntary initiative in the Coastal region.

As outlined in our [Governance Manual](#), our vision, mission and strategic objectives provide the strategic framework and foundation for determining the watershed-specific Priority Actions recommended in each Action Plan.

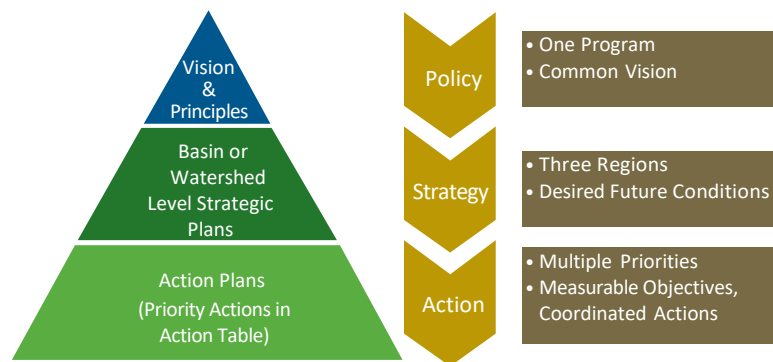


Figure 1 FWCP's strategic framework is the foundation for the Action Plans that define priorities for conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

FWCP Vision

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

FWCP Mission

The Fish & Wild Compensation Program compensates for the impacts to fish, wildlife and their supporting habitats affected by BC Hydro owned and operated generation facilities.

FWCP Strategic Objectives

The FWCP's three strategic objectives reflect a synthesis of the core objectives and mandates of the partner agencies – BC Hydro, Province of BC and Fisheries and Oceans Canada - as they relate to mitigating impacts associated with hydro-power generation in British Columbia.

Conservation

- **Maintain or improve the status of species or ecosystems of concern.**
This focuses on the conservation goals for ecosystems, habitats or ecological communities, and specific species. Conservation priorities may also be identified at the watershed level based on local conditions.

¹ Section 2.1. of the FWCP [Governance Manual](#) (June 2014) Legal Platform, describes the water licence conditions related to the FWCP.

-
- **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.

Sustainable Use

- **Maintain or improve opportunities for sustainable use, including harvesting and other uses.**

This objective focuses on the 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. Harvesters include First Nations, recreational, sport, and commercial users. Other uses may include cultural, medicinal, or non-consumptive uses.

Community Engagement

- **Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and Aboriginal communities.**

This objective comes from BC Hydro's social responsibility policy, the Province's shared stewardship goal, and the approach of Fisheries and Oceans Canada'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.

INTRODUCTION TO FWCP'S ACTION PLANS

The FWCP's Action Plans provide strategic direction for each region based on the unique priorities, compensation opportunities and commitments in the region. The Action Plans also reflect the FWCP vision, mission and strategic objectives.

The Action Plans describe the strategies and Priority Actions needed to accomplish FWCP objectives at the basin or watershed-level. The Action Plans guide FWCP investments (see [FWCP Investment Criteria](#) below) and are referenced annually by the regional Boards to track progress toward implementation, set annual priorities and guide decision-making in setting out and approving the Annual Operating Plan for each region.

Our Action Plans:

- define "footprint" impacts of BC Hydro dams;
- identify fish & wildlife priorities (i.e. Priority Action); and
- recommend projects to:
 - address priorities; and
 - are the basis for determining which projects are eligible for funding.

The Priority Actions outlined in our Action Plans, support our objectives for each watershed related to ecosystems, sustainable use and species of interest. Our updated [2017 Coastal Region Watershed Action Plans](#) reflect the strategic linkages outlined in **Figure 2**. The updated 2017 Action Plans:

- incorporate learning and experience gained since 2011 when the previous Action Plan update was finalized;
- reflect input and ideas received during multi-step engagement process (see Updating Action Plans below);
- identify gaps and update Priority Actions; and
- synthesize 41 documents into 14 Watershed Action Plans with a streamlined format to:
 - reduce document length;
 - reduce complexity and improve readability; and
 - improve navigation and use.

Our Coastal Region Watershed Action Plans are posted at <http://fwcp.ca/region/coastal-region/>. Action Plans for our [Columbia Region](#) and [Peace Region](#) are also available online.

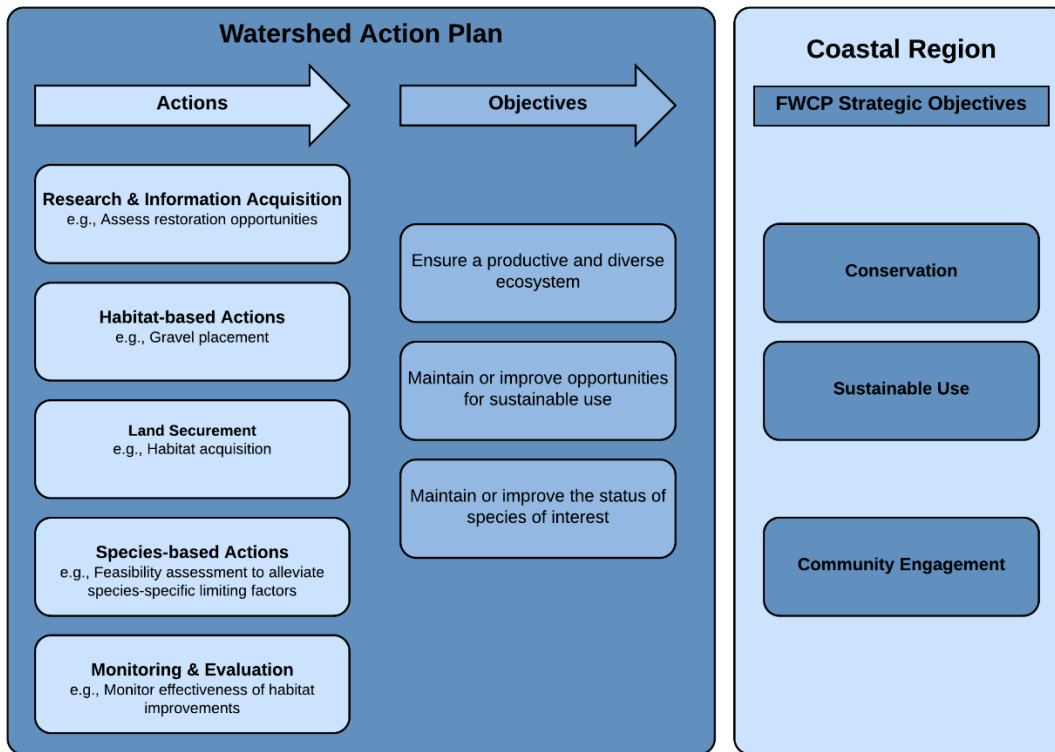


Figure 2 Our over-arching strategic objectives (i.e. conservation, sustainable use, and community engagement) are addressed through watershed-level objectives. These objectives are addressed through the Priority Actions recommended in each Action Plan (see Action Tables).

Action Plan Content

Our Action Plans provide important background and context about each watershed including: the setting, BC Hydro dams and generating stations, past FWCP projects funded, land ownership, objectives and measures, and interactions with other processes.

The Action Plans include a series of Ecosystem Chapters that provide further detail about three main ecosystem types:

- 1) rivers, lakes and reservoirs;
- 2) wetland and riparian areas; and
- 3) upland and dryland.

Each Ecosystem Chapter provides information on limiting factors, the status of current knowledge of the watershed, impacts and threats to the watershed. The Ecosystem Chapters are defined by three objectives, which are high-level statements of desired future conditions consistent with the FWCP's strategic objectives

Every Action Plan includes an Action Table that outlines the Priority Actions. The Priority Actions were developed with science-based and community input and have been assigned a priority from level 1 to 3.

Action Table Content

Action Tables reflect the unique conservation and enhancement opportunities in each of the 14 watersheds that make up our Coastal Region. The Action Tables are essential reading prior to starting an FWCP grant application. A high-quality grant application will clearly demonstrate alignment with Priority Action(s) in an Action Table identified as “Open.” The Action Table is explained below. [Contact us](#) if you have any questions interpreting an Action Table.

CAMPBELL RIVER WATERSHED ACTION TABLE										Version: 9Aug17
Action #	Ecosystem Chapter	Action Type	Priority Action Short Description	Priority	Target Species	Priority Action	Intended Outcome	Delivery Approach	Location	
30 1	Wetland & Riparian 2	Habitat-based Actions 3	CBR.WAR.HB.30.0 1 Install nest boxes for Purple Martin-P2 4	2 5	Purple Martin 6	Install nest boxes for Purple Martin in cooperation with existing enhancement programs. 7	Habitat enhancement opportunities. Maintain or, where feasible, 8	Open 9	Throughout 10	
31	Wetland & Riparian	Habitat-based Actions	CBR.WAR.HB.31.0 1 Implement wetland and riparian	1	Wildlife	Implement wetland and riparian restoration projects that are identified as high priorities through inventory, mapping or assessment. If a restoration plan has been completed under	Protect, restore and/or create new wetland and	Open	Throughout	
32	All	Research & Information Acquisition	CBR.ALL.RI.32.01 Inventory & restoration for at-risk...and/or	3	At-risk Plants	Inventory and restoration for at-risk (e.g., SARA-listed, red- and blue-listed) and/or culturally important plant species and ecological communities. Potential species of interest:	Habitat restoration opportunities.	Open	Throughout	

Figure 3 Each Action Table is formatted the same but the Priority Actions reflect the needs and opportunities in each watershed.

- 1 **Action #** - A reference number for referring to the Action Table. These numbers may help you cross-reference actions within the table. This action # is not required when completing an online grant application.
- 2 **Ecosystem Chapter** – This refers to the relevant Ecosystem Chapter (i.e. Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs, Uplands & Drylands and Riparian & Wetland). When completing an online grant application, you will be asked to select the Ecosystem Chapter from a drop-down menu.
- 3 **Action Type** - Priority Actions are grouped into five broad action types. See FWCP Project Investment Criteria.
 - 1) **Research & Information Acquisition Actions** – These actions will collect information necessary to evaluate, review and implement subsequent conservation, restoration and enhancement actions. Examples include inventory, limiting factor assessment and other activities to address data gaps and information needs to complete other actions.
 - 2) **Habitat-based Actions** – These actions will conserve, restore and enhance habitats. Examples include habitat creation, restorations and enhancement, enhancing habitat connectivity and invasive species management.
 - 3) **Land Securement Actions** – These actions will contribute to the establishment of easements or covenants, or the purchase of private land for conservation purposes.
 - 4) **Species-based Actions** – These actions will alleviate limiting factors for a species. Examples include restoration planning, captive breeding/rearing and reintroductions.
 - 5) **Monitoring and Evaluation Actions** – These actions will monitor and evaluate projects supported by FWCP to understand the effectiveness of habitat- or species-based actions.

When completing an online grant application, you will be asked to select the Action Type from a drop-down menu.

4 **Priority Action Short Description** – This is a concise description of the action and our internal alpha-numeric ID tag. When completing an online grant application, you will be asked to select the action description and the ID tag from a drop-down menu. This ID tag enables the FWCP to track the projects and outcomes associated with an action.

5 **Priority** - Our Action Plans identify the importance and urgency of each Priority Action (i.e., priority 1, 2, or 3). A priority 1 action will score higher than a priority 2 or 3 action, when grant applications are evaluated.

Priority	Definition of FWCP Priorities
1	Required urgently due to current/imminent threats, provide a significant benefit relative to cost, and/or are required before subsequent actions can be completed.
2	Required due to current/imminent threats, but may require more testing/research to determine cost-benefit, and/or should be completed after the Priority 1 actions.
3	Identified due to possible threats, but requires more testing/research to determine cost-benefit, and/or should be completed after the Priority 1 and 2 actions.

6 **Target Species** – The primary species that will benefit from the Priority Action, or simply whether the action is focused on fish or wildlife, or both.

7 **Priority Action** –The Priority Actions build on our strategic framework (i.e. vision, mission and strategic objectives), and reflect First Nation, technical, and community input. Anyone interested in applying for an FWCP grant should develop a grant application that aligns with one or more “Open” Priority Action(s).

8 **Intended Outcome** – Reflects the intention behind the action and how the Priority Action will help realize FWCP objectives and desired future conditions. Defining the outcome helps us monitor progress towards our objectives and vision.

9 **Delivery Approach** – We deliver funding and projects in three ways: 1) grants, 2) directed projects (i.e. requests for proposals) and 3) long-term agreements. Actions identified as “open” are eligible for a grant and these are the Priority Actions you should review if you want to apply for an FWCP grant. Actions identified as “directed” are not eligible for a grant. These are projects that our Regional Boards will direct through the appropriate procurement process (e.g. a request for proposal). Please do not submit a grant application for a “directed” project. [Contact us](#) if you are not sure.

10 **Location** – Where the Priority Action should occur. Some actions apply to an entire watershed, others might target a specific site or sub-basin within a watershed.

FWCP Project Investment Criteria

We fund and support the following types of actions, which are consistent with our mission and vision and align with our Priority Actions. See Table 2 for our Project Investment Criteria.

Table 2: FWCP Project Investment Criteria

FWCP Does:	FWCP Does Not:
✓ Fund actions to create, restore, or otherwise improve the function of ecosystems that have been impacted by BC Hydro activities;	✗ Fund core activities of government or non-government agencies or programs;
✓ Fund actions to create, restore, or otherwise improve the function of alternate ecosystems that provide a better opportunity for investment;	✗ Lead the development of species recovery goals;
✓ Participate as a team member in species of interest planning;	✗ Fund, co-ordinate, or lead National Recovery Teams for species at risk;
✓ Fund specific management actions for species of interest as identified by recovery teams and action/implementation groups;	✗ Develop policy related to land or wildlife management;
✓ Fund baseline inventory that contributes to the development of habitat or species based actions within Watershed Action Plans;	✗ Administer government regulations;
✓ Fund monitoring programs designed to measure the effectiveness of FWCP funded habitat and species actions; and	✗ Engage in enforcement and compliance activities, except in relation to co-operatively managed conservation lands; and
✓ Contribute to all aspects of managing co-operatively managed conservation lands.	✗ Fund programs designed exclusively to address government harvest objectives.

UPDATING OUR COASTAL WATERSHED ACTION PLANS

In fall 2016 the FWCP initiated a process to revise the 2011 Action Plans for each of the 14 watersheds that make up the [FWCP's Coastal Region](#). Following a competitive bidding process, FWCP selected Compass Resource Management to coordinate the process and develop draft Action Plans, together with, and on behalf of the FWCP.

A multi-step process was followed to develop the Action Plans. The process focused on early engagement with First Nations, technical experts, industry and agency representatives. During this initial step, contact was made with First Nation bands with traditional territory in each watershed, government agencies and local industries. Each had the opportunity to participate in discussions about the FWCP, and its past, present and future work in each watershed.



Figure 3: Multi-step process to update watersheds for 14 Coastal Region watersheds started in fall 2016 and focused on early engagement with First Nations, agencies and stakeholders.

In addition to these initial discussions, the team considered the results of third-party strategic reviews of FWCP’s fish and wildlife projects in the Coastal Region (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2016). The reviews, conducted on behalf of the FWCP by EcoFish Research, resulted in an inventory of completed projects and identified opportunities for future project work.

Based on the outcomes of this first step in the process, draft action tables were prepared. The tables were discussed during multi-stakeholder, watershed-level discussions. Community workshops or webinars were hosted in each watershed (see Figure 4). The discussions included a presentation to introduce the FWCP, the Coastal Region, its Action Plans and the process to update the plan. Break-out groups were established for fish, wildlife and general interest areas to review and discuss the draft Action Tables. Participants ranked their top priorities for the watershed and provided feedback on the readability and content of the draft Action Tables.

The workshops and webinars were advertised in local print and digital media (i.e. web ads), social media (via BC Hydro channels), via fwcp.ca, and via FWCP e-letters. Radio ads were used to support pre-event publicity in select Vancouver Island watersheds.

Input received during the engagement process was reviewed and prioritized by the Coastal Region Board and its Technical Review Committees. They considered the input relative to FWCP’s vision, mission, objectives and project investment criteria. While many suggestions and comments were submitted through the engagement process, priorities that did not align with FWCP project investment criteria or objectives, or were evaluated with a priority level lower than 3, were not included in the final action tables.

Watershed	Workshop/Webinar Location	Workshop/Webinar Date	End of Public Comment Period
Jordan River	Sooke	Nov. 22, 2016	June 30, 2017
Clayton Falls	webinar	Dec. 6, 2016	June 30, 2017
Falls River	webinar	Dec. 7, 20217	June 30, 2017
Ash River	Port Alberni	Jan 10, 2017	June 30, 2017
Puntledge River	Courtenay	Jan. 11, 2017	June 30, 2017
Campbell River	Campbell River	Jan. 12, 2017	June 30, 2017
Clowhom River	webinar	Feb. 21, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Jones Creek-Wahleach Lake	webinar	Mar. 9, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Cheakamus River	Squamish	May 23, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Bridge-Seton Rivers	Lillooet	May 24, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017

Shuswap River	Vernon	May 25, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Alouette River	Mission	May 29, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Stave River	Mission	May 29, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017
Coquitlam	Port Coquitlam	May 30, 2017	Aug. 21, 2017

Figure 4 Half-day (i.e. afternoon) watershed-level discussions were widely advertised and attended by a cross-section of participants.

A draft Action Plan for each watershed was posted on fwcp.ca for public comment. The FWCP’s Coastal Region contact list and all workshop participants were notified of the draft Action Plans, and invited to comment on them. Action Plans were finalized following the public comment period, and any final amendments as directed by the Coastal Region Board. Final Draft Action Plans were approved by the Coastal Board in September, and ultimately approved by the Policy Committee in the fall 2017.

The updated 2017 Action Plans are based on:

- the best available science and information;
- conservation priorities that align within our mission and vision; and
- First Nation, agency, technical, and community input.

The Action Plans will provide guidance for approximately five years. The next Action Plan update is tentatively scheduled for 2022, subject to the Coastal Board’s discretion.