

For Immediate Release
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Grizzly Bear, Salmon and Species-at-Risk Projects Approved

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves Funding for 2015 Projects

LILLOOET – The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) announced today that it will fund the Lillooet Tribal Council and the St’at’imc First Nation to deliver projects aimed at conserving local fish and wildlife.

The Lillooet Tribal Council will study sockeye and coho production, and coho and bull trout habitat on Gates Creek. This project will help build capacity among Tribal fisheries technicians as well.

The St’at’imc First Nation’s Splitrock Environmental will lead two projects: one is aimed at developing a conservation and restoration plan for the Seton River corridor that will help species-at-risk. The other project is focused on maintaining the foreshore near the Lillooet Powerhouse where restoration work has already taken place.

The FWCP also announced today that it will fund a project with the Province of B.C. to help improve available habitat for local grizzly bears. This project will help sustain a viable local population of grizzlies. Other projects will support wolverines, fishers, mountain goats and owls. Learn more at fwcp.ca.

Together, 11 projects in the Bridge and Seton River watersheds will receive more than \$437,000 from the FWCP, which conserves and enhances fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

“Conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife populations for future generations is part of our responsibility,” Fraser-Nicola MLA Jackie Tegart said. “These seven projects will help ensure wildlife and fish stocks around Lillooet will thrive for years to come.”

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.

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: The FWCP announced funding today for a project aimed at improving habitat available to local grizzly bears. This project is one of several to be delivered locally by stewardship groups, government agencies and First Nations with funding from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program. (fwcp.ca)

Photo Credit: Jared Hobbs

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.