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Fish and Wildlife Projects Announced

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Approves Funding for 2015 Projects

COLUMBIA REGION – From bull trout to grizzly bears, sturgeon to snakes, and caribou to bats, there is a long list of local species that will benefit from projects announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). Members of the FWCP’s Columbia Region Board approved approximately \$5.6 million in funding 53 hands-on and research-based projects that get underway now.

“This year we continue to fund large projects, such as the successful nutrient restoration programs in Kootenay Lake and Arrow Lakes Reservoir, and much smaller community-based ones such as riparian restoration monitoring in the wetlands near Revelstoke,” said FWCP-Columbia Board public representative Grant Trower. “Regardless of the project size, they all align with our strategic [Action Plans](#).”

The FWCP is a partnership between public stakeholders, First Nations, BC Hydro, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Province of B.C. to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

It delivers conservation and enhancement projects in three ways: calls for project applications each year; through a long-term agreement, currently with the Province of B.C., to deliver some of the core FWCP operational projects; and finally through issuing calls for proposals (directed projects) to deliver projects viewed as local priorities by the FWCP-Columbia Board.

“This has allowed us to increase grants, project diversity, and the number of project partners,” said FWCP-Columbia Program Manager, Crystal Klym. “Working more closely with First Nations, government agencies, consultants, stewardship groups and others has enabled us to broaden the range of hands-on and science-based fish and wildlife projects implemented.”

Such projects include installing a culvert south of Nakusp to open up fish spawning and rearing habitat, revitalizing a kokanee spawning channel in Revelstoke, ecosystem enhancement to improve forage for ungulates in both the East and West Kootenay, wetland restoration work, and numerous activities to support species-at-risk, such as white sturgeon, northern leopard frogs and mountain caribou.

For a full list of projects supported by the FWCP visit fwcp.ca.

FWCP spending of \$5.6 million in the Columbia Region in 2015-2016 includes \$513,315 spread across 11 projects in the Upper Kootenay River watershed, thanks to support from Columbia Basin Trust. The FWCP receives the bulk of its funding from BC Hydro and also operates in the Coastal and Peace regions.

“It’s our responsibility to ensure that fish and wildlife are conserved and enhanced for future generations,” said Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines. “This year alone, the FWCP will be helping to deliver approximately 124 projects across the province, at a value of \$8.9 million, to support fish, wildlife, and their habitats in areas with hydroelectric operations. The projects are selected by local regional boards that have representation from the public, First Nations, DFO, the Province of B.C. and BC Hydro.”

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North Kootenay



The Kokanee spawning channel at Bridge Creek, Revelstoke, will receive a “make-over” this year from the Revelstoke Rod and Gun Club to improve spawning habitat, and is one of 53 projects being supported by the FWCP in the Columbia Region this year.

South Kootenay



Assessing the habitat and connectivity of the Blue-listed (vulnerable) Wolverine in the Southern Columbia Mountains is just one of 53 projects that is being supported by the FWCP this year, for a total FWCP investment of \$5.6 million across the Columbia Region.

(Photo: J Krebs)

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; Splatsin 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.