

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2014

Funds Announced for Local Fish and Wildlife Projects

PITT MEADOWS / MAPLE RIDGE – Four fish and wildlife projects in the Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge area are being given more than \$160,000 through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP).

Three of the projects will improve both the habitat and the science to support salmon stocks and Bull Trout. The fourth project will help restore and create wetland and shoreline habitat for species-at-risk.

Projects funded in 2014 start this spring and conclude by early 2015. They are among 31 fish and wildlife projects approved for more than \$1.7 million in funding this year in the FWCP's Coastal Region, which includes the Lower Mainland. Learn more at www.fwcp.ca.

QUOTES:

Doug Bing, MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows

"The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program will help protect fish and wildlife stocks in the Lower Mainland. Salmonids, which played a prominent role in the founding of this province and continue to play an important role in its economy today, will have their habitats expanded and further protected."

Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission

"British Columbia's environment is something that belongs to us all and should benefit us all. As a government we recognize the need to support job growth in the natural resources sector while also developing those resources in a responsible way. That's why I am proud to support a great initiative like the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, which will support and enhance fish and wildlife habitats in my riding."

Brian Assu, Chair, FWCP – Coastal Region Board

"Salmon stocks are of great importance to First Nations and others, and these projects will support stocks in local watersheds. We are fortunate to have strong working partnerships with conservation groups and agencies working to make a real difference for species-at-risk in these watersheds."

Patrice Rother, Manager, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

"We are pleased with the strong interest in the FWCP and the quality of project proposals that support the FWCP vision of thriving populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable."

A few facts about the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program funds conservation and enhancement projects in the Coastal, Columbia River and Peace River regions. The Coastal Region includes Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland and the Southern Interior.
- In 2014, the FWCP will provide more than \$7 million towards more than 80 fish and wildlife projects province-wide in its Coastal, Columbia and Peace regions.
- 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 to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the creation of BC Hydro dams.

- Funding applications are received each fall and reviewed annually in the Coastal Region by technical committees and FWCP Coastal Board members. Projects are chosen based on technical merit, linkages to watershed-specific priorities, cost-effectiveness, level of partnership, and overall benefit to the FWCP's mandate and vision.
- For a full list and descriptions of all 2014 projects funded by the FWCP across the province, and information on how you can apply for funding next year, visit fwcp.ca.

For more information contact

BC Hydro Media Relations
604-928-6468

FWCP Projects Funded in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge Watersheds – 2014-2015

Mud Creek Sediment Pond Reactivation

Alouette River Management Society

\$29,882

This project will address the Mud Creek Sediment Pond, which collects debris from Mud Creek, connected to the South Alouette River. The project will involve excavating approximately 1500m³ of fill from the Mud Creek sediment pond; removing the spoils to an approved designated site; replacing/refurbishing the wooden weir at the base of the sediment pond; and repairing the rock gabion and/or deflection structures within the Mud Creek sediment pond. The project will benefit all salmonids and other fish species in the South Alouette River and their spawning grounds and habitat below, and in the vicinity of, Mud Creek.

Alouette River Bull Trout Spawner Enumeration and Life History Investigation

MoFLNRO, South Coast Fish and Wildlife

\$27,416

The project will evaluate Alouette Reservoir Bull Trout stocks and life history parameters. These are initial steps towards developing a Bull Trout restoration plan for the reservoir, as well as developing an efficient method for long-term abundance trend monitoring. The main benefit is a better understanding of the status and biology of this isolated char population. This will help direct future management actions with a long-term goal of a healthy, sustainable, wild population and high quality recreational fishery.

Experimental Release of Hatchery-reared Sea-run Kokanee into Alouette Reservoir to Evaluate the Feasibility of Re-establishing Sockeye Salmon

Alouette River Management Society

\$40,260

The purpose of this project is to determine whether the extirpated Sockeye Salmon run can be re-established from the non-anadromous (Kokanee) population that has persisted within the Alouette Reservoir.

This experiment can indicate the relative and absolute survival of fry from sea-run spawners propagated in the hatchery compared to sea-run spawners transferred to spawn naturally in the reservoir and resident Kokanee spawners. It will also provide information regarding the suspected failure of natural sea-run spawning and confirm (or refute) the hypothesis that the progeny of sea-run Kokanee have a statistically greater propensity to emigrate to sea than progeny of lake-resident Kokanee (which, if true, would greatly increase the feasibility of re-establishing the anadromous Sockeye run).

Identify, Conserve and Restore Populations of Priority Species-at-Risk and their Associated Habitats within the Alouette River Watershed

British Columbia Conservation Foundation

\$66,715

This is year four of a proposed five-year project (future FWCP funding to be confirmed) to identify and prioritize locations, and potential future actions for conservation, restoration and creation of wetland and riparian habitat. Several species-at-risk have been identified in the watershed, and restoration has occurred at several priority sites.

The FWCP is a partnership of:

