

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2014

Funds Announced for Shuswap River Watershed Fish and Wildlife

VERNON – Three projects that will help conserve habitat for salmon and Bobolinks in the Shuswap River watershed will benefit from close to \$247,000 in funding from the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP).

FWCP funding will help restore more than 720m of shoreline habitat near the Middle Shuswap River, improving spawning, habitat and cover for salmon. A second project will explore the impact of Wilsey Dam turbines on juvenile salmon.

The Bobolink is the focus of a bird project that will help protect breeding habitat and colonies for the small black bird.

Projects funded in the Shuswap River watershed will 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 Shuswap River watershed. Learn more at www.fwcp.ca.

QUOTES:

Greg Killo, MLA for Shuswap

"I spend a lot of time out on the water, whether on my own or with family and friends. The outdoors is and always will be a big part of my life. It should come as no surprise that I am a big supporter of these Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program initiatives, which will protect and enhance our province's natural heritage for generations to come."

Brian Assu, Chair, FWCP – Coastal Regional Board

"Hands-on efforts to improve habitat for fish and wildlife are important, as are projects that improve our science-based understanding to support future projects. We are fortunate to have strong working partnerships with conservation groups and the public to make a real difference in this watershed."

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.

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FWCP Projects Funded in Shuswap River Watershed – 2014-2015

Feasibility for Assessing Fish Entrainment at Wilsey Dam

Whitevalley Community Resource Centre Society – on Behalf of the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Committee
\$58,568

A feasibility study will be conducted to determine if hydro-acoustic technologies are suitable for measuring entrainment of juvenile salmon through Wilsey Dam. Pending results of this work, a detailed entrainment study is anticipated to be completed the following year. The goal will be to see if acoustic technologies can obtain data on proportional passage (i.e. spillway vs. turbines), and to provide information to support fish passage feasibility evaluation at this dam.

The project will contribute information toward the feasibility of providing fish passage at Wilsey Dam and also seek to maintain or improve opportunities for sustainable use. Increased salmonid production from the river would increase access to the resource by First Nations Food, Social and Ceremonial (FSC) fisheries that is currently confined to the Middle Shuswap River below the dam.

Habitat Complexing (Pool Creation) and Side Channel Protection for the Middle Shuswap River

Whitevalley Community Resource
\$155,961

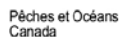
This project will address current erosion that is placing the Maltman side channel system at risk on the Middle Shuswap River. Habitat restoration will take place on 720 metres of riparian corridor and river bank along the river, and build on previous work supported by FWCP, DFO and the Maltman family in constructing 900 metres of complex side channel habitat. The work to be completed this year will protect those side channels and intake infrastructure, and also provide flows that maintain the Lang Channel side channel system located downstream during low flow periods. It will increase deep pooling or holding areas for spawning salmon, increase riparian health, and improve spawning habitat and cover.

Bobolink Habitat in the Middle Shuswap

Cooper Beauchesne and Associates Ltd.
\$31,985

This project aims to benefit Bobolinks by improving their productivity in the Middle Shuswap area. The goals will be to identify important breeding habitats, protect existing breeding colonies from destruction during haying, and work with partners to promote long-term protection. Work will include habitat protection, inventory, and providing Bobolink-friendly haying advice to landowners.

The FWCP is a partnership of:



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