



FWCP-Peace
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Funds Announced for Local Fish and Wildlife Projects

PEACE REGION – Seven conservation projects in the Peace River and Williston Reservoir watershed are being given close to \$260,000 in funding through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). Community groups and others will use the money to support local caribou, moose, fish and birds. Some of the money will go towards environmental education.

The 2014 projects funded include fish access improvements, controlled burns to restore ecosystems, monitoring birds in the reservoir, maintaining manmade waterfowl nesting sites, increasing knowledge of caribou on the west side of the reservoir and environmental education.

This is the first year that FWCP-Peace has invited community groups and others to apply for funds to do important local fish and wildlife projects. Interested groups and individuals can apply for funding in fall 2014 and contact the program manager for more information on funding priorities and evaluation criteria. Learn more at www.fwcp.ca.

QUOTES:

Mike Morris, MLA for Prince George-Mackenzie

"As an avid outdoorsman, I support our government's efforts in reinvesting in environmental capital in British Columbia. I'm very optimistic that our government is going to conserve our environment."

Mike Bernier, MLA for Peace River South

"Peace River country is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and a number of unique ecosystems. Through the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program our government is helping to preserve these habitats and educate our citizens about their importance. Environmental stewardship – protecting our province for our children and grandchildren – is at the core of responsible development of the natural resource sector. Whether you are a hunter, an environmentalist, or someone employed in the natural resources sector, this is something we can all be proud to support."

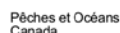
Ted Down, Chair, FWCP – Peace Board

"The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program provides the funds and relies on local groups and individuals to develop and deliver conservation projects that will meet our conservation objectives."

Dan Bouillon, Program Manager, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Peace

"We are pleased with the number and diversity of project proposals received this year. And prior to the next funding application deadline in November 2014, we will be developing information to help interested applicants to understand the new FWCP-Peace strategic Basin and Action Plans and guidelines for the application process. We look forward to funding additional projects next year that will contribute to the conservation and enhancement of fish and wildlife, and their habitats in the Williston and Dinosaur basins."

The FWCP is a partnership of:



A few facts about the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program

- The Peace Region includes the communities of Mackenzie, McLeod Lake, Hudson's Hope, Tsay Keh Village, and Fort Ware with others, as well as the traditional territories of many other First Nations in the region. See program area map.
- The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program funds conservation and enhancement projects in the Coastal, Columbia River and Peace River regions.
- 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 Peace Region by technical committees the FWCP's First Nations' Working Group and FWCP Peace 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.
- The First Nations Working Group (FNWG), the Fish and Wildlife Technical Committees and the Board, all review and rank incoming proposals. The FNWG is represented by nine First Nation organizations: Tsay Keh Dene, Kwadacha, Nak'azdli, McLeod Lake, Sauteau, West Moberly, Doig River, Prophet River and Treaty 8 Tribal Association.
- 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.

Contact:

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FWCP—Peace Project Summaries

Development of Priorities for Assessment and Treatment

Society for Ecosystem Restoration in North Central BC (SERNbc)

\$4,999

The project proposes to develop partnerships between government, First Nations, private companies and the SERNbc in the planning and prioritization of assessment and treatments to improve upstream fish access caused by perched culverts. This project will specifically build on the watershed-based prioritization process previously developed by the provincial government, and then work with key stakeholders and First Nations in the FWCP area to confirm these priorities and identify key areas that should be slated for fish access assessment.

The work will provide a plan for the prioritization of fish access at identified roadway crossings within the FWCP area, with consideration of priorities relating to effort and expenditures on treating specific sites. It will also engage and inform stakeholders early in the planning stages to secure buy-in, support and advocacy for improving fish access.

Mugaha Marsh Banding Station, Mackenzie, B.C.

Mackenzie Nature Observatory

\$15,500

Mugaha Marsh Banding Station is a conservation partnership that conducts science-based monitoring of wildlife dependent upon productive riparian habitat affected by water use management in the Williston Reservoir. Through a collaborative approach and significant volunteer effort, Mackenzie Nature Observatory (MNO) collects standardized data on birds breeding in, and migrating through, Mugaha Marsh during midsummer and fall when reservoir water levels are at their peak, and lowland riparian shrub habitat is limited.

Data are used by multiple partners to inventory and assess the status and trends of migratory birds and their conservation needs on a local level, as well as on provincial and federal levels. Through this monitoring program MNO is able to promote the understanding and enjoyment of nature while collecting additional data regarding the migratory birds.

Artificial Nesting Structure Use and Maintenance

Ecofor Consulting BC Ltd.

\$37,669

This project will evaluate, monitor and perform maintenance on the existing habitat structures installed between 1991 and 1998 in 17 sites along the west and east shores of Williston Reservoir (Parsnip Reach), and the west side of Crooked River, south to Summit Lake.

The work will include repositioning or deactivating unused nest boxes in Dina and Kerry lakes, establish new nest boxes at 60km Mugaha Marsh, Old Mill Pond, and Crooked River, and finally, install new floating platforms in the 15 Mile Swamp area. It will also provide habitat for waterfowl in the area, and help produce valuable waterfowl-use information.

Prescribed Burns to Enhance Habitat for Ungulates in the Williston Area

Finlay River Outfitters Ltd.

\$155,944

This is year two of a proposed five-year prescribed burn and monitoring program (future FWCP funding to be confirmed) designed to enhance ungulate habitat in selected Resource Management Zones (RMZs) within the Williston Reservoir area. Specifically, the area targeted for treatment is located approximately 95km north of Mackenzie in the Akie, Pesika, and Collins-Davis RMZs, east of the Finlay Reach of the Williston Reservoir.

This project will use prescribed burning to enhance ungulate habitat, and will monitor the effectiveness of these restorative activities. Restoring moose habitat is expected to result in sustained and increased productivity of moose populations, and this enhancement work will provide direct benefits to the whole ecosystem by increasing forage for other ungulates in the area such as elk, deer, mountain goats, and sheep.

FWCP-Peace Colloquium

University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)

\$4,500

Organized by UNBC, this annual gathering will bring one or more leading scientists to speak about conservation topics related to the mandate of the FWCP-Peace. The intended audience includes regional professionals and the general public, First Nations and graduate students, and the gathering will include a networking session. This will provide an important extension opportunity for the FWCP, and foster productive interaction among the FWCP, the public, faculty and graduate students from UNBC.

Mackenzie Schools Ecology Program

Wildlife Infometrics Inc.

\$10,835

This is year one of a proposed two-year project (future FWCP funding to be confirmed) to develop half-day ecology presentations for each school-grade based on prescribed science learning outcomes identified by the Ministry of Education. This project is intended to augment the school science program by exposing students in Morfee Elementary School and Mackenzie Secondary School to local ecology and conservation issues (e.g., discussion of wolf, caribou and moose dynamics). The presentations, or workshops, will be delivered by local biologists and foresters, and will incorporate First Nations traditional ecological knowledge.

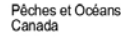
Assessing Caribou in the Scott West Herd Area

Wildlife Infometrics Inc.

\$19,438

The range of the Scott Caribou herd was bisected by the creation of the Parsnip Reach of the Williston Reservoir, and exists now as small, isolated, resident sub-populations on each side of the reservoir. While some information is known about the east population, almost nothing is known about the west population and it has largely been excluded from management plans. There are, however, designated winter ranges for the western portion of the Scott West herd population and this project will assess the presence of a remnant population of the Scott West herd caribou on the west side of Williston Reservoir.

The FWCP is a partnership of:



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