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## **Salmon and Species-at-Risk Benefit from Conservation Projects**

### **FWCP announces 41 fish and wildlife projects in its Coastal Region**

**(MISSION)** At-risk birds, turtles, amphibians and salmon will benefit from conservation and enhancement projects in the Alouette and Stave River watersheds. The projects, funded by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) in 2016-17, will be delivered by the Katzie First Nation, the Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition, Alouette River Management Society, and others.

Projects are getting underway now and include actions to increase salmon rearing and over-wintering habitat in the Stave River, as well as efforts to increase Sockeye returns in the Alouette River watershed.

In the Stave River watershed, work will continue to identify, monitor and restore at-risk species, including toads, turtles, herons and owls. In the Alouette River watershed, traditional knowledge from the Katzie First Nation will come together with restoration science with the goal of creating tidal marsh habitat for many species.

“We fund hands-on and research-based fish and wildlife projects that align with our strategic Action Plans,” says FWCP Coastal Region Manager, Trevor Oussoren, adding, “improving the science and understanding of a species through research is an important part of conservation efforts.”

This year, the FWCP is investing approximately \$225,000 in the Alouette and Stave River watersheds. Within its Coastal Region, FWCP is funding 41 fish and wildlife projects for a total of \$1.9 million in 2016-17. Across the province, FWCP is funding more than 116 fish and wildlife projects for a total of approximately \$8.7 million. In its Coastal Region, FWCP receives all of its funding, nearly \$2 million in 2016-17, from BC Hydro. For more details visit [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).

“Conservation and enhancement projects like this are critically important for the fish and wildlife that use these watersheds,” says Maple Ridge-Mission MLA, Marc Dalton. “There are many at-risk species that will benefit from these efforts. We want to make sure their habitats remain strong and viable for years to come.”

The projects approved for FWCP funding reflect conservation priorities in the region, and were selected after review by FWCP’s Coastal Region fish and wildlife technical committees, and its nine-member regional Board, which is responsible for reviewing and approving all FWCP projects in the Coastal Region.

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program 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.

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