



Coastal Region
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Salmonids, Frogs and Fishers to Benefit from FWCP Funds

Nearly \$400,000 for local fish and wildlife projects announced

(LILLOOET) The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is funding 11 local conservation and enhancement projects in the Bridge and Seton watersheds. They range from tackling aquatic invasive species, to regenerating endangered Whitebark Pine forests, and include monitoring the success of past restoration activities.

The FWCP Coastal Region Board approved funding for the following projects in the Bridge and Seton watersheds:

- Assessing Salmonids and Habitat at Gates Creek (Lillooet Tribal Council).
- Monitoring Habitat Restoration at Apple Springs (Bridge River Indian Band).
- Removing Yellow Flag Iris and Knotweed Invasive Plants (Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society).
- Wolverine Inventory and Conservation in South Coast Mountain Ranges (Ministry of Environment).
- Using Environmental DNA to Assess Occurrence of Tailed Frogs (Hemmera Envirochem Inc.).
- Restoring Endangered Whitebark Pine in St'at'imc Territory (Lillooet Tribal Council).
- Restoring Lillooet Sub-Population of Spotted Owls (Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations).
- Northern Spotted Owl Captive Breeding Program (BC Conservation Foundation).
- Studying Fisher Use of Artificial Den Boxes (Davis Environmental Ltd.).
- Restoring and Maintaining Habitat at the Powerhouse Foreshore (Splitrock Environmental).
- Working with T'it'q'et and Sekw'el' First Nations to Map Puslumcw (wetground) and Wetlands (Cayoos Creek Indian Band).

Together, the 11 projects will receive \$394,833 in FWCP funding. The 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. In its Coastal Region, FWCP receives all of its funding, nearly \$2 million in 2016-17, from BC Hydro.

“We fund hands-on and research-based 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 any effort to conserve and enhance species.”

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.

Within its Coastal Region, FWCP is funding 41 fish and wildlife projects for a total value of \$1.9 million. Across the province, FWCP is funding more than 116 fish and wildlife projects for a total of approximately \$8.7 million. For more on all projects funded by FWCP in the Bridge and Seton watersheds, and elsewhere in the province, visit fwcp.ca.

“These projects are extremely valuable to the Bridge and Seton watersheds,” Fraser-Nicola MLA, Jackie Tegart said. “It is critically important that these conservation efforts continue so our fish and wildlife habitats remain strong and viable.”

(Cont...)

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For More Information:

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