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Salmon Habitat Projects Receive FWCP Funding

41 Fish and Wildlife Projects Announced

(SQUAMISH – WHISTLER) Efforts to restore salmon habitat in the Squamish River watershed will continue in 2016 with funding from the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). Two recently announced fish conservation projects will focus on the upper Squamish River and the Dave Marshall Salmon Reserve. Both will be delivered by the Squamish River Watershed Society.

These hands-on restoration projects will create or improve spawning, rearing and over-wintering habitats for several salmon species including Chum, Chinook, Coho, Pink and Steelhead, and are valued at approximately \$150,000.

In addition to these projects, the FWCP's Coastal Region Board approved funds to continue gathering information about species-at-risk and assessing habitats in the Clowhom River watershed. The Board also approved a project to assess Wolverines in the South Coast mountains.

"For more than 20 years the Squamish River Watershed Society has been working hard to monitor, restore and safeguard the sustainability of the Squamish River," said Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky. "These projects will enhance the integrity of the watershed and help protect local salmon—one of our province's most valuable resources."

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.

"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. In its Coastal Region, FWCP receives all of its funding, nearly \$2 million in 2016-17, from BC Hydro.

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. For more details visit fwcp.ca.

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