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More Funding for North Columbia Fish and Wildlife Projects

(NORTH COLUMBIA) The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is funding nine conservation and enhancement projects in the North Columbia area this year. The total funding is for more than \$200,000, and is a three-fold increase over last year.

“During our grant application intake, the Columbia Region Board made the North Columbia one of its priorities,” says FWCP Columbia Region Manager, Crystal Klym. “As a result, we received many grant applications from stewardship groups, First Nations, and consultants, and many of those have turned into projects for the North Columbia.”

The projects approved for funding from the FWCP Columbia Region Board for 2016-17 are:

- an exploration of wetland habitat creation in the Kinbasket Reservoir area;
- Great Blue Heron inventory and stewardship;
- Common Loon floating nesting platforms in Bush Arm and Staubert Lake;
- Western Painted Turtle nesting habitat restoration at Red Devil Hill;
- feasibility of protection of wetland features at Airport Slough in Revelstoke;
- Mountain Caribou maternity penning;
- assessing Moberly Marsh, near Golden, for wetland restoration;
- Revelstoke Reach riparian restoration; and
- developing potential ecosystem enhancement projects from Shelter Bay to Mica Dam.

The Board approved funding another 46 projects elsewhere in FWCP’s Columbia Region including the operations of the Kokanee spawning channel at Galena Bay, adding nutrients to Arrow Lakes Reservoir, and efforts to help the endangered White Sturgeon of Columbia River; all of which are a core component of the FWCP.

“A number of stakeholders and members of the public have asked us to support more projects in the North Columbia, and the Board listened,” adds Klym. “Now we look forward to seeing the results and how well these projects will benefit fish and wildlife in the area.”

The projects approved for FWCP funding reflect conservation priorities in the region and were selected after review by FWCP’s Columbia Region fish and wildlife technical committees and its 10-member Board, which is responsible for reviewing and approving all FWCP projects in the Columbia Region.

“The Columbia River watershed supports numerous fish and wildlife species throughout B.C.’s southeast,” said Bill Bennett, MLA for Kootenay East. “This funding will help to ensure the continued protection of these species in the North Columbia area. My thanks to BC Hydro, and our federal and First Nations partners for their support.”

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. (cont...)

Across the province, FWCP is funding more than 116 fish and wildlife projects for a total of approximately \$8.7 million. For more details visit fwcp.ca.

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