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Wetland Restoration Among Priorities for FWCP

\$5.8 million in funding to support fish and wildlife in the Columbia Region

(WEST KOOTENAY) The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is funding 55 projects, valued at more than \$5.8 million, across the Columbia Region in 2016-17; 23 of those projects, valued at approximately \$3 million, are in the West Kootenay. Projects range from the addition of nutrients to Kootenay Lake and Arrow Lakes Reservoir, to the restoration of important wildlife habitat in the Lower Arrow Lakes. There is also a stronger emphasis on projects that involve conservation and restoration of wetland habitats in the West Kootenay.

“On-the-ground wetland work was one of the priorities outlined by the Columbia Region Board in its annual call for grant applications, and there was a very positive response from applicants,” said FWCP Columbia Region Manager, Crystal Klym. “Many of these projects will focus on the implementation of restoration activities to help wetland-dependent species.”

Wetland projects receiving FWCP funding in the West Kootenay include:

- Restoring Rossland's Centennial Wetland;
- Wetland Stewardship and Restoration in the Kootenays: protecting and conserving wetlands by delivering four workshops and hosting two wetland restoration sessions;
- Restoring Wetland along Slocan River; and
- Restoring Riparian and Wetland Habitat at Indian Creek – two hectares will be treated with the addition of coarse woody debris to improve habitat for vertebrates and invertebrates;

“These projects are an important part of ensuring that wildlife in the Columbia River watershed continues to thrive,” said Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett. “Many thanks to our partners at BC Hydro, the federal government, and our local stakeholders for helping to make this possible.”

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.

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.

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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