



Peace Region  
9228 – 100th Avenue  
Fort St. John, B.C. V1J 1X7  
Dan Bouillon, Regional Manager  
[dan.bouillon@bchydro.com](mailto:dan.bouillon@bchydro.com)  
250-783-7509 [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca)

**For Immediate Release**  
**June 23, 2016**

## **At-Risk Caribou to Benefit from Conservation Funding**

### **FWCP announces 20 fish and wildlife projects**

**(PEACE REGION)** At-risk caribou will benefit from several conservation projects approved for funding by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) in its Peace Region. The projects, getting underway now, will help restore habitat and the food supply for caribou and other ungulates, while improving the science and understanding of local caribou herds.

In 2016-17, FWCP will fund a maternity pen for caribou cows in the Klinse-Za (Moberly) herd that will help improve survival rates for calves. The FWCP's Peace Region Board also approved funding for a project to help restore lichen, an important food source for caribou, in the Finlay Arm, which was impacted by a fire in 2014 where mature stands and lichen were lost. Other caribou projects will help determine population estimates.

Caribou is just one of many local species that will benefit from the eight fish and 12 wildlife projects funded by FWCP this year. Bats, Bull Trout, Arctic Grayling, migratory birds, amphibians, Fishers, Mountain Goats and other species, plus the habitats they rely on, will be the focus for 20 fish and wildlife projects approved for more than \$970,000 in FWCP funding for 2016-17. Several projects funded in our Peace Region involve local First Nations.

Fish and wildlife projects funded by FWCP in 2016-17 include:

- reducing wildlife barriers to improve habitat connectivity;
- banding birds at Mackenzie Nature Observatory to continue long-term data collection;
- estimating Bull Trout spawner abundance in Williston Reservoir, in order to identify critical spawning habitat and estimate populations; and
- prioritizing angling enhancement opportunities in Nak'azdli First Nation territory to improve habitat and sustenance angling.

"We fund hands-on and research-based projects that align with our strategic Action Plans," says FWCP Peace Region Manager, Dan Bouillon, adding, "most projects we fund are delivered by stewardship groups, consultants and agencies, and we involve First Nations early in planning each project."

The projects approved for FWCP funding reflect conservation priorities in the region, and were selected after a review by the FWCP's First Nations' Working Group (FNWG), technical committees and the 16-member Peace Region Board.

Across the province, FWCP is funding more than 116 fish and wildlife projects for a total of approximately \$8.7 million. Learn more at [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).

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 existing BC Hydro dams.

## Quotes

Mike Bernier, MLA – Peace River South

“Peace River is the heartland of natural resource development in B.C., and we want to ensure that we do what we can to manage our resources in a way that sustains our environment for generations to come.”

Mike Morris, MLA – Prince George - Mackenzie

“Environmental stewardship is part of responsible natural resource development. As an outdoor enthusiast, I support these efforts to conserve our environment.”

Pat Pimm, MLA – Peace River North

“We want to protect our caribou and other ungulates, and through projects like these we can continue our work on caribou habitat stewardship.”

-30-

### **For More Information:**

Angus Glass

FWCP Communications Coordinator

250-352-1300

[angus.glass@bchydro.com](mailto:angus.glass@bchydro.com)