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## **An Innovative Approach to Controlling Cattails** *One of 38 FWCP-funded projects in the Columbia Region this year*

**(North Columbia)** The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) is funding an innovative project to enhance marsh bird breeding habitat by controlling cattails. The project examines whether removing cattails by hand and then covering the test area with a tarp is an effective way of controlling the plant in the long term.

The project is one of 38 FWCP-funded projects in the Columbia Region of British Columbia in 2019—2020, for a total value of approximately \$5.8 million.

Led by Goldeneye Ecological Services, this restoration project is being implemented at Reflection Lake near Golden, where a previous FWCP-funded project determined that cattail monocultures are spreading and reducing important breeding habitat for marsh birds.

Surveys will be conducted at test sites before and after treatments to see if bird use increases. The work is expected to benefit a number of species, including the Sora, Virginia Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, and the Blue-listed Eared Grebe.

The Akisqnuk First Nation will use the extracted cattails for traditional purposes.

Like all FWCP-funded projects, this project was approved by the Regional Board and aligns with the region's Action Plans, which identify priorities and projects eligible for FWCP funding.

The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries & Oceans Canada, First Nations, and Public Stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. BC Hydro funds the FWCP annually in order to fulfill its applicable water licence obligations, and the FWCP directs those funds toward priority actions to fulfill its mission.

Across its Columbia, Coastal, and Peace Regions, the FWCP has approved approximately \$9.2 million for 97 projects. Learn more about FWCP projects, results, and how you can apply for a grant. Visit [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca) and subscribe to our e-letter and newsletter at [fwcp.ca/subscribe](http://fwcp.ca/subscribe).

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### **For More Information**

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