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## News from our Peace Region

### December 2019

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#### **Thirty-five grant applications received and under review**

Thank you to everyone who submitted a grant application for a project in our Peace Region. Thirty-five grant applications are going through our review process, carried out by our staff, technical committees, our Peace Region First Nations Working Group, and Regional Board. Approximately \$1.8 million in funding has been requested from our Peace Region, for a total potential project value of \$4.5 million. All applicants will be notified of our Board's decisions by the end of February 2020. For more information about our application review process, see our [funding FAQs](#).



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#### **You're invited: Free bat presentation in Mackenzie on Dec. 3**

Wildlife biologist and bat specialist Brian Paterson will be presenting a summary about bat research in Northeastern B.C., [funded by the FWCP](#). Did you know, for example, that eight bat species reside here, and some even stay over winter? Topics include life-history strategies of resident vs. migratory bats, how bats benefit local ecosystems, threats they face, and current research into locating hibernacula and maternal roosts for endangered bats. And if you can't make it to Mackenzie, join online. The event is funded by the FWCP and hosted by UNBC's Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute. [Read more](#).



Northern Myotis. Photo: Zonal Ecosystem and Wildlife Consultants Ltd. (PEA-F20-W-2947).

## Mercury study complete: Report & public summary available

The three-year (2016-2018) FWCP study of mercury levels in fish from the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoir Watersheds is now complete. **Among the key study results, it was found that mercury in fish from the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoir Watersheds are similar to mercury in fish from natural lakes and rivers in B.C., for which data were available.** Azimuth Consulting Group Partnership collaborated with First Nations to study mercury in Bull Trout, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Kokanee, and Rainbow Trout. The full report and a concise public summary [are now available on our website](#).



Bull Trout sampling. Photo: Azimuth Consulting Group Partnership.

## Identifying wetland restoration opportunities

Chu Cho Environmental (CCE), [with FWCP funding](#), has been identifying opportunities for wetland restoration. In July 2019, field data collection was completed, and 15 sites were assessed using a rapid wetland health assessment technique. This project is improving understanding of where wetlands were located in the Finlay Reach of Williston Reservoir, prior to inundation by the reservoir, and is documenting the cultural importance of wetlands to the Tsay Keh Dene. Next steps for this project include working with Tsay Keh Dene members to determine opportunities for wetland restoration within the Finlay Reach that align with the land management goals of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation.



Training in wetland health assessments were carried out by the BCWF. Photo: CCE (PEA-F20-W-2966).

## Apply now: Community Engagement Grants available anytime

Our Community Engagement Grants are easy to apply for with a short turnaround time for application review. [Contact us](#) if you have a project idea that will benefit fish and wildlife, especially if it involves volunteers. You could be eligible for up to \$1,000. [Read more.](#)



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 in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.

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