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## News from our Columbia Region

### January 2020

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#### **Fifty-one grant applications being reviewed now**

Thank you to everyone who submitted a grant application for a fish or wildlife project in our Columbia Region. The grant applications are going through our three-stage review process that includes our Regional Manager, technical committees, and Regional Board. Approximately \$2.36 million has been requested, for a total potential project value of \$5.47 million. All applicants will be notified of our Board's decisions by the end of February 2020. [Read more](#) about our grant application review process.



Bighorn Sheep are benefitting from several FWCP-funded [projects in 2019 - 2020](#).

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#### **UKEEP wraps up and five-year review now available**

A five-year review of the Upper Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement Plan (UKEEP) has been completed. UKEEP was a partnership between the FWCP and Columbia Basin Trust that funded sixty-four projects, for a total value of approximately \$2.8 million, in the Upper Kootenay River Watershed, including Kooconusa Reservoir. The review found that UKEEP was "very successful in reaching its goal to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats." Read the [review](#) and [summary document](#) for more details.



UKEEP funded several fish passage improvement projects, including removing a culvert and [installing a bridge span at Wickman Creek](#). Photo: Evan Kleindienst, VAST Resource Solutions.

## Fifteen Lewis's Woodpecker nests in the West Kootenay

Fifteen West Kootenay nests for threatened Lewis's Woodpeckers were confirmed in 2019 - the most active nests found since FWCP started funding this monitoring project in 2008. Lewis's Woodpeckers often return to the same nest site, but 11 of the nests were at new sites. Nine were located in the Pend d'Oreille Valley, six in the Upper Slokan River Watershed where three were found within 12-15 metres of each other in Black Cottonwoods. As a result of this project, three new wildlife habitat areas have been proposed to protect nest sites on Crown land. [Read more](#).



The Lewis's Woodpecker is one of three recovery species in our [Upland and Dryland Action Plan](#) in the Columbia Region. Photo: iStock.

## Board tours projects in the Rocky Mountain Trench

Our [Columbia Region Board](#) recently visited FWCP-funded projects in the Rocky Mountain Trench near Radium Hot Springs. Projects included bird boxes installed in the wetlands, and the 423-acre Edgewater conservation property that was purchased with the help of The Nature Trust of B.C. [Read our current Project List](#) for projects funded in 2019-2020.



Chris Bosman of The Nature Trust of BC shows FWCP Board members some of the habitat features of the [Edgewater property](#) near Radium Hot Springs.

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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 BC Hydro dams.

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