



## News from our Coastal Region June 2020

### Coastal Region approves 28 projects for 2020-2021

Our Coastal Region board approved approximately \$1.7 million for 28 projects for 2020-2021. The 15 fish and 13 wildlife projects will be delivered by stewardship groups, agencies, Indigenous groups, consultants, and others. Together the projects will restore wildlife habitat, support the rebuilding of salmon stocks, improve spawning and rearing habitat, support the recovery of endangered species, and improve fish passage. The projects will benefit coho, chum, Chinook, cutthroat trout, as well as support endangered species or populations, including Vancouver Island marmots, northern spotted owls, western painted turtles, and whitebark pine trees. Read our [2020-2021 Coastal Region project list](#) and visit our interactive [project map](#).



Several projects in our Coastal Region are focusing on helping Chinook salmon. Photo: iStock, J. Fader

### \$8.7 million approved for 99 projects in our three regions

Our three regional boards approved funding for 99 projects this year to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. In addition to our [Coastal](#) project list, you can also read our [Columbia](#) and [Peace](#) project lists. The projects are being delivered through grants, long-term partnerships, and contracts. Learn more at [fwcp.ca](http://fwcp.ca).

## Conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife

The FWCP is conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams. With annual funding from BC Hydro, our independent regional Boards have approved approximately \$8.7 million for 99 fish and wildlife projects in 2020-2021. These projects align with our action plans.

Explore our [Coastal](#), [Columbia](#) or [Peace Region](#) maps. Learn more about projects happening now.



View our interactive maps to see the projects funded in our [Coastal](#), [Columbia](#), and [Peace](#) regions.

## Watch Canada's rarest owls: see "Chick P" now!

The northern spotted owl is Canada's most endangered owl with less than 10 individuals estimated to be left in the wild in British Columbia. The [Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program](#), which is partly [funded by our FWCP Coastal Region](#), invites you to watch the webcam located at its breeding facility. "Chick J" successfully fledged, and now the camera has been moved to another nest so we can watch Chick P grow over the next week or two.

[Watch now!](#) Share this link: [fwcp.ca/owlwebcam](http://fwcp.ca/owlwebcam)



Chick J spreads his wings before successfully fledging and leaving the nest on May 28, 2020.

## 65 endangered western painted turtles released

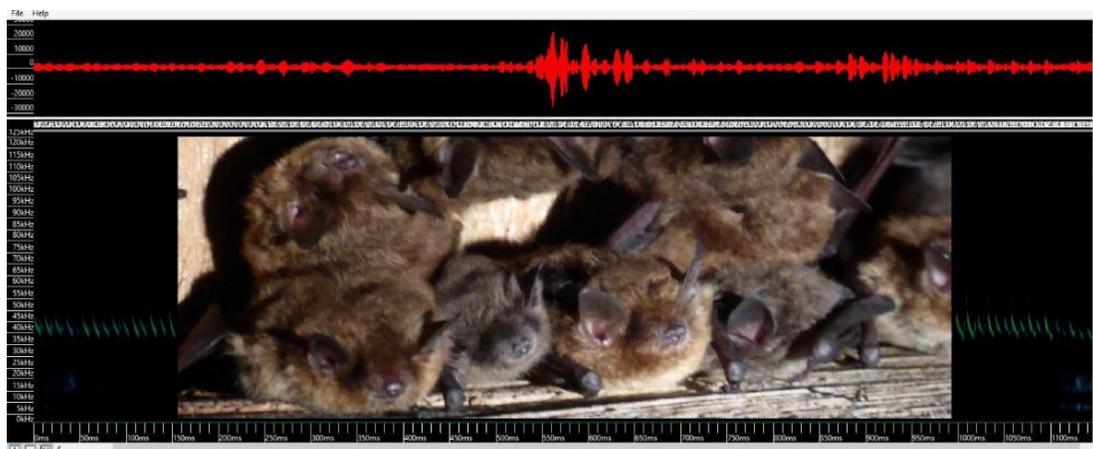
Sixty-five at-risk turtles were released at nesting sites in 2019 in the Lower Mainland by the [South Coast Western Painted Turtle Recovery Group](#) as part of the recovery plan for the Pacific Coast population. The project also documented a record number of 53 turtle nests, with one-third of those nests occupied by young females laying eggs for the first time. The project's goal is to recover turtle populations by increasing survival through rearing and releasing "head-started" turtles. [Read more.](#)



Students helped release head-started turtles near Mission. Photo: J. Fournier

## 10 bat species and two maternal colonies recorded

Over 14,000 ultrasonic bat recordings collected in the Puntledge River Watershed helped identify the presence of 10 bat species, including one that may be a first on Vancouver Island. These results occurred in year one of a proposed three-year project, funded by the FWCP and led by the [Comox Valley Land Trust](#), to help identify and protect high-quality bat habitat. Two maternal bat colonies-the first documented in the watershed-were also located, with another three outside the watershed boundary. [Read more.](#)



Part of a screen shot showing an ultrasonic recording of a little brown myotis, and (inset) a maternity colony of the same species found near Courtenay. Photos: T. Ennis and S. Ketchen

## Community Engagement Grants available

Planning on doing a small project, with safe physical distancing of course, to help fish and wildlife in our FWCP Coastal Region in the near future? We have funds available through our [Community Engagement Grants](#). Apply now, and you could be eligible for up to \$1,000.



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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