











Pêches et Océans Canada



Manager's Message

Welcome to the FWCP's annual newsletter, which contains highlights of the many important projects we helped fund in 2020–2021. It's been an eventful year, to say the least! The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges worldwide. Here in British Columbia, an already challenging summer was exacerbated by the impacts of climate changes, including heatwaves and an intense wildfire season.

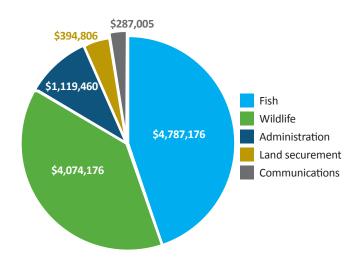
Even in the face of these extraordinary conditions, the work of conservation and enhancement has continued. Thanks to the tireless commitment, resilience, and adaptability of successful grant applicants and others, the FWCP successfully delivered 100 fish and wildlife projects in its Coastal, Columbia, and Peace regions. The speciesand habitat-based actions represent a total project investment of approximately \$8.7 million.

We continue to adapt our processes to consider and incorporate reconciliation and climate resilience into our program, and we're working on new ways to keep you up to date on our work. Currently, we're focusing on:

- Strengthening engagement with First Nations.
- Expanding our reporting and sharing of results.
- Refining our communications strategy based on your feedback.
- Implementing recommendations from a 2019 third-party audit, including building understanding about our work related to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), increasing the number of directed projects we fund, and ensuring our governance manual reflects current practices and priorities.

Budget allocation

This year (2021-2022) the three regional boards allocated 83% of their budgets toward fish and wildlife projects.



As we strive toward our vision of thriving fish and wildlife populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable, we hope you'll stay engaged with us. Follow us on Instagram and LinkedIN, subscribe to our regional e-letters, and read our annual reports.

Enjoy reading our project updates. If you're interested in learning more, visit our website at www.fwcp.ca and explore our interactive maps. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the many people who helped us realize this important work!

Monique Stevenson

Why does BC Hydro fund the FWCP?

The FWCP is funded annually by BC Hydro, and we direct those funds toward projects that address priority actions in our three regions: Coastal, Columbia, and Peace. BC Hydro has water licence obligations in our Columbia and Peace regions and has made voluntary commitments in our Coastal Region to compensate for the impacts of dam construction on fish and wildlife. BC Hydro fulfills its applicable obligations through the FWCP, which is a partnership between First Nations, the Province of B.C., Fisheries & Oceans Canada, public stakeholders, and BC Hydro. Learn more at fwcp.ca/our-story.

Cover photo credits: C. Gale, iStock, Supercaliphotolistic, Brian Sperling.

Chinook spawning habitat restored in Campbell River Watershed

Two new gravel spawning areas have recently been restored downstream of the John Hart Generating Station in the Campbell River Watershed.

The first is a new 2,100 m² spawning platform installed 600 m downstream from the generating station at Site 9. The platform is expected to provide spawning habitat for about 210 pairs of Chinook salmon, and it will likely also benefit chum and pink salmon. Snorkel swims by Fisheries and Oceans Canada recorded spawning Chinook at the site in fall 2020, and aerial surveys confirmed Chinook salmon spawning there in fall 2021.

The second area—Site 5— is located about 60 m downstream of the generating station, just upstream of First Island. Completed in the summer of 2021 following a feasibility study by A-Tlegay Fisheries Society, this gravel pad is approximately 35 m long with an area of 1,400 m². It will add spawning habitat for almost 140 pairs of Chinook and will also benefit chum and pink salmon. Monitoring in October showed evidence of both Chinook and pink salmon utilizing the newly constructed spawning area.

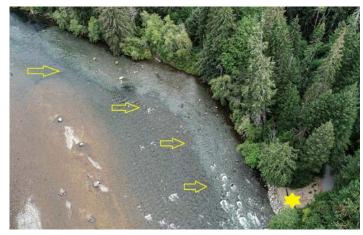
These projects align with the FWCP's priority action to strategically place spawning gravel in historically important areas for Chinook in the Campbell River Watershed.

Project ID: COA-F21-F-3299 and COA-F21-F-3367-DCA

Over a quarter of a million Chinook smolts released in effort to rebuild population

Every year, the FWCP contributes to the Puntledge River Hatchery in Courtenay to support the production of Chinook and help rebuild stocks of this species of high conservation concern. A recent report from the hatchery (2020) confirms that 264,239 Chinook smolts were released as part of an ongoing effort to recover populations of Pacific salmon. Just a few months later, broodstock were collected and held until ready to spawn. These mature fish will be bred to produce smolts for future release.

Project ID: F21-PUN-DFO-01



Site 9: the completed gravel pad with the decommissioned access ramp. Photo: Suavair $\,$



Chinook are a high-priority species for our Coastal Region, and our local watershedbased action plans prioritize work that sustains and restores salmon spawning habitat. Photo: iStock, Supercaliphotolistic

Riparian habitat restored in the Campbell River Estuary

Volunteers pitched in more than 120 hours to remove invasive species and plant native trees and shrubs in the Campbell River Estuary as part of a project to restore ecological function to the riparian and upland habitat.

Over 3,500 kg of invasive plants, including yellow flag iris and Himalayan blackberry, have been removed as part of this project, led by Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust. To help restore the wetland and riparian ecosystems, a priority action in our Coastal Region, 40.75 m² of benthic barrier was installed to eradicate dense yellow flag infestations and the area was revegetated with over 800 native plants.

Managing these invasive species will improve habitat function and support species in the estuary, including juvenile salmonids, the provincially Red-listed Henderson's checker-mallow, and Vancouver Island beggarticks, a species of special concern under the Species at Risk Act.

Project ID: COA-F21-W-3281



Volunteers like Bruce Izard (with shovel), his son, and grandson were critical to the success of this restoration project on Baikie Island in the Campbell River Estuary. Photo: Greenways Land Trust

130 at-risk turtles raised and released in Lower Mainland watersheds

Over 300 western painted turtles have been released in Lower Mainland watersheds to help support the province's only remaining freshwater turtle, which is federally listed as Threatened and provincially Red-listed. The turtles were "head started," which means they were raised in captivity until they reached a size that makes them less susceptible to predation.

The project, led by the South Coast Western Painted Turtle Recovery Group with funding from the FWCP, surveys turtle populations, monitors head-started turtles, and restores turtle habitat. This year, 134 head-started turtles were released at four sites, four nesting beaches were maintained, and nine basking logs were installed or reset. Currently, over 100 juvenile turtles that were collected as eggs are in captivity to get a head-start and will be released at a later date. Other monitored nests were left on site, protected, and will be monitored into next spring.



Western painted turtle recovery and conservation is a priority action in many of our Coastal Region watersheds and action plans.

Project ID: COA-F21-W-3295

This project relies on headstarted turtles, like this juvenile on the left, which are raised in captivity and then released. Photo E. Craig

Innovative project aims to protect bats from white-nose syndrome

Bats in the Stave River Watershed are getting a helping hand to prepare for the inevitable arrival of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that has killed millions of bats in North America and is expected to arrive in British Columbia.

Bat roosts at two Stave sites have been inoculated with a probiotic-laden clay powder to protect against WNS in this project by the Wildlife Conservation Society Canada with funding from the FWCP. This past summer 325 bats were captured and sampled for probiotic bacteria—results to date confirm these beneficial bacteria are transferring to bat wings.

If successful, this pilot approach to reduce bat mortality due to WNS could be used across the province.

Project ID: COA-F21-W-3275



Bat species that roost in buildings and bat boxes in the Pacific Northwest are largely Yuma myotis (above) and the little brown myotis. These two species account for the most WNS mortalities in western North America to date and both are being treated with probiotic in this project. Photo: C. Lausen.

Enhancement increases functionality of Seton River spawning channels

A total of 406 plants were planted alongside the upper and lower spawning channels of the Seton River, resulting in over 0.4 ha of enhanced habitat. Two truckloads of weeds were removed, and 22 trees were caged to prevent beaver damage. In a trial area, thick-gauge fencing and metal fence posts were installed around juvenile plants.

In time, the areas that received the enhancement treatment will likely result in increased vegetation cover, thereby providing shade to reduce future water temperatures. This work, led by Splitrock Environmental Sekw'el'wás LP with funding from the FWCP, will increase the functionality of spawning and rearing habitat for coho, Chinook, and pink salmon, as well as steelhead and rainbow trout.

Project ID: COA-F21-F-3302



benefits of the riparian habitat enhancement, which benefit salmon.

Photo: Splitrock Environmental

Shore-spawning kokanee using restored habitat

More than 620 shore-spawning kokanee have used a recently restored section of shoreline on the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. The spawning habitat at McDonald's Landing, north of Nelson, was enhanced with 80 m³ of gravel spread over 500 m². The gravel was placed at a low elevation to help reduce the risk of redds being de-watered in the spring.

During this restoration project, three new shore-spawning sites were found close to McDonald's Landing. Kokanee are a focal species in our Columbia Region Reservoirs & Large Lakes Action Plan, in which conserving, restoring, and enhancing spawning habitat to support productivity is a priority action. This project was led by the Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society with funding from the FWCP.



Project ID: COL-F21-F-3248



Volunteers monitor the spawning habitat and assess egg-to-fry survival rates. Photo: Kayla Tillapaugh



Spawning gravel was added to a 50-m-long stretch of shoreline at McDonald's Landing. Photo: FWCP



Shore-spawning kokanee lay eggs near the shoreline and are genetically different than stream spawners. They account for up to 15% of all kokanee spawners in the West Arm of Kootenay Lake. Photo: Ministry of Environment

High-priority lakes mapped to benefit at-risk aquatic species

Foreshore inventories, maps, and development guidance documents for four East Kootenay lakes have been completed. Together, they will help conserve habitat and mitigate threats for several species, including the Kootenay River white sturgeon, Columbia and shorthead sculpin, westslope cutthroat trout, and bull trout.

The shoreline health of each of the highpriority lakes—Whitetail Lake, Whiteswan Lake, Moyie Lake, and Lake Windermere was assessed to examine the cumulative impacts of development. Areas were



Westslope cutthroat trout are among the many fish species that will benefit from a project to assess shoreline health at East Kootenay lakes. Photo: Ben Meunier

identified for restoration and high-value habitats were recommended for protection.

This ongoing project, led by Living Lakes Canada with funding from the FWCP, includes guidelines for foreshore development for each of the four lakes. As of October 2021, three additional lakes—Kootenay Lake, Slocan Lake, and Columbia



Lake Windermere in the East Kootenay was one of the first four lakes assessed for shoreline health. Several West Kootenay lakes are scheduled for shoreline assessments in 2022. Photo: Georgia Peck

Lake—have been inventoried, and reports will be completed in 2022.

This project aligns with a priority action in our Columbia Region Small Lakes Action Plan to help ensure existing natural habitats are protected and support the successful reintroduction of some at-risk species.

Project ID: COL-F21-W-3323



At-risk species identified at wetlands near Golden

Four at-risk species—peregrine falcon, pygmy waterlily, barn swallow, and Loesel's wide-lipped orchid—were recorded during recent inventories of seven higher-elevation wetlands near Golden.

The inventories were carried out to record rare wetland features, conduct bird counts, identify habitat threats, and make recommendations for future restoration or conservation actions. The project, led by Goldeneye Ecological Services with funding from the FWCP, identifies wetlands and riparian areas for future ecosystem restoration—a priority action in our Columbia Region Wetlands & Riparian Areas Action Plan.

Project ID: COL-F21-W-3260





Deserted Lake (left) near Golden was one of four high-elevation lakes targeted for shoreline inventories. The project confirmed the presence of four at-risk species, including the peregrine falcon and Loesel's wide-lipped orchid. Photos: R. Davill and iStock, corridor91 and ca2hill

Restoration plans underway for two East Kootenay marshes

Riparian habitat will be restored at Mayook Marsh near Cranbrook and Moberly Marsh near Golden thanks to a recent study by Ducks Unlimited, with funding from the FWCP, that assessed eight East Kootenay sites to prioritize enhancement needs.

At Mayook Marsh, 24 ha of marsh habitat will be restored. At Moberly Marsh, 243 ha of floodplain wetland will be reconnected, providing high-quality habitat for waterfowl and the western painted turtle, a provincially Blue-listed species.

The study also identified five sites for further biological assessments: Pickering Lake, Wolf Creek, Suzanne Creek, Spring Lake and Bronze Lake, and Bummers Flats. Restoring and creating wetland and riparian habitat is a priority action for the FWCP, as outlined in our Columbia Region Wetlands & Riparian Areas Action Plan.

Project ID: COL-F21-W-3268



The wood duck is one of many waterfowl species that will benefit from the wetland and riparian habitat restoration work near Golden and Cranbrook. Photo: iStock, H. Collins

More than 150 new electric fences installed to reduce grizzly bear mortality



One hundred and fifty new electric fences have been installed to help reduce conflicts between grizzly bears and humans. This project, led by Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions with funding from the FWCP, mean 450 fences across the East and West Kootenay have been installed since 2013. Most contain an area small to medium in size—typically less than one acre—and are primarily around chicken coops, bee yards, fruit trees, and small numbers of livestock. This year, the project also saw ten grizzly bear safety and fencing workshops delivered throughout the FWCP's Columbia Region.

Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions improves grizzly bear and human coexistence through education, collaboration, and the use of practical tools. Properly installed and maintained electric fencing prevents bear conflicts with livestock and crops and reduces associated bear mortalities.

Supporting grizzly bear conservation is a priority action for the FWCP, as outlined in our Columbia Region Upland & Dryland Action Plan.

Project ID: COL-F21-W-3284



Electric fencing around attractants, such as beehives, can help reduce human-bear conflicts. Photos: Gillian Sanders

Wildlife corridors mapped to increase climate resilience

Twelve wildlife corridors in our Columbia Region have been identified as part of the Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change project. It aims to establish landscape-scale ecological connectivity in all three of the Columbia's sub-regions to conserve biodiversity, integrate conservation efforts across ecosystems, and promote climate change resilience.

Since 2019, eight corridors have been analyzed and mapped, and work in 2021–2022 will focus on four more corridors: South Country-Koocanusa, the Elk River Valley, Central Selkirk's Retallack Corridor, and the Salmo River Valley. In total, 12 corridors in the region will be completed. An extensive GIS database has been developed to map carnivores and other wildlife, species at risk, riparian ecosystems, and conservation opportunities for riparian and wetland habitat on private land. Onthe-ground conservation actions have been initiated in several corridors.

Led by Birchdale Ecological with funding from the FWCP, this project builds partnerships—it involves more than 80 stakeholders committed to developing solutions for local landscapes. It also stimulated additional funding of \$2 million over four years through the Canada Nature Fund to carry out onthe-ground conservation actions in four Kootenay Connect corridors. Supporting work to assess the connectivity and function of upland habitats is a priority action in the FWCP's Columbia Region Upland & Dryland Action Plan.

Project ID: COL-F21-W-3307





Top: Looking west across the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area just south of Duck Lake to the South Selkirk Mountains. Photo: Michael Proctor

Bottom: A graphic developed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada illustrates the view of the Frog Bear Conservation Corridor next to Duck Lake.

Data gathering and monitoring of Stone's sheep continues

Ten wild sheep have been outfitted with GPS collars as part of a multiyear project to examine the population demographics, behaviour, distribution, and habitat use of the two southernmost functionally viable herds of Stone's sheep. With these newly deployed collars, the project's sample size is up to 16 sheep in the Dunlevy and Schooler herds, which are at high risk of exposure to pathogens because of their proximity to domestic farms and elk.

The project, led by the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia with funding from the FWCP, also gathers data through observation and health assessments. Fifty sheep, including six lambs, were observed in a late March 2021 survey of the Dunlevy herd, which points to a relatively stable population. Eight sheep in the herd were tested for five viral and bacterial pathogens known to affect wild sheep, and all had negative results. Fecal glucocorticoid metabolite levels, however, indicate these sheep are at a significantly higher stress level than those in other herds.

Stone's sheep is an inventory species in our Peace Region's Uplands Action Plan, meaning inventory and/or trend monitoring is required to better understand population status, critical habitat needs, and key limiting factors. The next steps for this project will be to study the collared sheep to determine movement, behaviour, and landscape use.

Project ID: PEA-F21-W-3181



Stone's sheep in their typical steep habitat, as seen from the helicopter during one of the capture runs. Photo: Landon Birch



The health assessment of wild Stone's sheep includes a dental check. At least two monitored ewes had abnormalities—in this case, likely mandibular osteomyelitis, or lumpy jaw. Photo: Landon Birch

At-risk caribou herd grows to 116, including 11 calves released in 2021

Eleven caribou calves born inside a secure maternity pen at Mt. Rochfort near Hudson's Hope have been released into the wild alongside their mothers, bringing the population of the at-risk Klinse-Za herd to about 116—a significant jump from an estimated 36 animals in 2013. This is the eighth year of the pen. Guardians from the Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations monitor the caribou in the pen around the clock from the moment the animals enter until they are released when the youngest calf is about eight weeks old.

The caribou were released into an area that has had 100,000 seedlings planted and 35 km of linear corridor restored to restrict access by humans and predators. Last year, restoration activities were completed on four sites, which resulted in 3,183 ha of habitat restored in the Klinse-Za herd range. At a watershed-scale, 13% of previously disturbed habitat, or 26,906 ha, have been restored.

The maternity pen and habitat restoration projects are led by the Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society, a non-profit initiative between the West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations, in collaboration with Wildlife Infometrics.

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HCSOO HYPERFIRE

A cow and a calf leave the pen in August 2021. With funding from the FWCP and others, the West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations, in collaboration with Wildlife Infometrics, are working to support the at-risk Klinse-Za caribou herd. Photo: Wildlife Infometrics Inc.

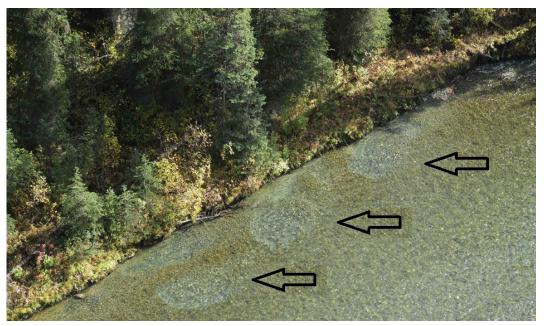
Project IDs: PEA-F21-W-3184 and PEA-F21-W-3195

New critical bull trout spawning habitat identified

Twenty-four new areas of critical bull trout habitat—including 16 critical spawning zones—have been identified in the Williston Reservoir Watershed, thanks to aerial surveys of almost 400 km of streams as well as juvenile bull trout sampling. Redds were spotted in three new sections of the watershed—Collins Creek, Pesika Creek tributary, and Silver Creek—bringing the total number of bull trout critical habitat segments in the watershed to 133, including 72 critical spawning zones.

Bull trout depend on access to stream habitat for spawning and rearing. This project, delivered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Chu Cho Environmental, and John Hagen and Associates, with FWCP funding, provides key data to inform future projects aimed at conserving and enhancing critical habitat for this focal species.

Project ID: PEA-F21-F-3172



Aerial surveys from a fixed-wing aircraft require a keen eye to see bull trout redds. Photo J. Hagen



Bull trout. Photo: Steve Rooke

Community members help construct 17 new nest boxes for waterfowl

Families from Hudson's Hope Elementary & Junior Secondary School helped construct 17 new nest boxes for waterfowl in the Williston Reservoir Watershed. Most of the nest boxes were installed near Dinosaur Reservoir, and two floating islands were installed in wetlands in the north-western section of the Dinosaur sub-region. Members of the Saulteau First Nations helped install and monitor the artificial nesting structures, which aim to support bufflehead, common and Barrow's goldeneye, common merganser, Canada goose, common loon, and mallard.

The project, led by Blackbird Environmental with FWCP funding, aligns with our priority actions to enhance the integrity of wetland and riparian ecosystems, install artificial nesting structures, and increase local awareness of waterfowl habitat needs. A complementary project, also led by Blackbird Environmental, inspected 74 nest boxes—with 13 being replaced—in the Parsnip sub-region.

Project IDs: PEA-F21-W-3223 and PEA-F21-W-3193



Monitoring and maintenance are important to sustaining benefits for fish and wildlife. Here, an infertile egg is removed before fresh wood chips are added. Photo: C. Coady

Williston Reservoir kokanee spawner numbers lower than 2010

There was a hiatus in surveys to estimate the number of kokanee spawners in the Williston Reservoir after 2010, but monitoring work started again in 2018, with funding from the FWCP. Although there was an increase between 2019 and 2020, preliminary results in September 2021 indicate the number of kokanee spawners has decreased this year and is substantially lower than 2010.

The aerial surveys are conducted as part of a multiyear study to assess the abundance and distribution of kokanee in the reservoir. The surveys looked at 29 tributaries across the watershed's four main subwatersheds.

The multi-year project also collected kokanee samples from key locations to assess reproductive potential,



age at maturity, and population genetics. It is being delivered by DWB Consulting Services Ltd. and managed by the Ministry of Forests, Land, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, with funding from the FWCP.

Project ID: PEA-F21-F-3363

Kokanee are a focal species in our Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs Action Plan. Photo: B. Meunier

Over 60 bird species detected in area targeted for new Wildlife Habitat Areas

A total of 2,795 birds were recorded at 24 sites in the Dinosaur Reservoir Watershed in passive acoustic surveys carried out during breeding season. Sixty different species were identified, including five Species at Risk: black-throated green warbler, Canada warbler, evening grosbeak, northern goshawk, and winter wren.

The inventory created by this project, led by Zonal Ecosystem and Wildlife Consultants Ltd. with funding from the FWCP, is the basis for a proposal of multiple new Wildlife Habitat Areas. The areas will protect important breeding habitat for black-throated green warbler, bay-breasted warbler, Cape May warbler, Connecticut warbler, and Nelson's sharp-tailed sparrow as well as vital habitat for secondary species, such as the Canada warbler, fisher, and northern myotis bats. The work aligns with our priority action to implement projects identified through approved recovery strategies and management plans.

Project ID: PEA-F21-W-3191



The proposal for multiple Wildlife Habitat Areas was strengthened by the confirmation of four Blue-listed bird species. Bottom, from left: black-throated green warbler, Canada warbler, winter wren. Top: northern goshawk. Photos: Wikipedia and iStock

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS APPROVED FOR 2021–2022

In 2021–2022, our regional boards approved ~\$9.4 million for 100 fish and wildlife projects that support our vision of thriving fish and wildlife in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable. This is a partial project list. Read our project lists at fwcp.ca/projectlists.

Coastal Region projects: 31 projects: 18 fish, 13 wildlife ~ \$2.4 million

FISH

- Supporting salmon in the Puntledge River Watershed
- Building awareness of salmon in the Shuswap River Watershed
- · Using technology to improve fish passage
- Improving fish passage in the Cheakamus,
 Alouette, Falls, and Coquitlam river watersheds
- Restoring riparian habitat in the Puntledge River Watershed
- Helping rebuild Chinook stocks in the Bridge-Seton Watershed
- Increasing vegetation to lower water temperatures for Chinook
- · Improving flows and habitat for salmon

- Adding nutrients to the Puntledge River Watershed
- Using eco-cultural restoration techniques in the Campbell River Watershed
- Improving water flows for salmonids
- Studying the feasibility of large-scale gravel additions
- Supporting Chinook in the Puntledge River Watershed
- Improving salmon spawning habitat in the Campbell River Watershed

WILDLIFE

- Helping Canada's most endangered owl species
- Supporting the recovery of endangered Vancouver Island marmots

- Growing endangered whitebark pine in the Bridge-Seton Watershed
- Assessing white-nose syndrome mitigation in the Stave River Watershed
- Conserving bats and their habitats in the Clowhom River Watershed
- · Increasing habitat for at-risk owls
- Restoring ecological function in the Campbell River Watershed
- Supporting recovery of western painted turtles
- Improving bat science and knowledge in the Puntledge River Watershed
- Developing a habitat assessment map tool
- Securing conservation lands in our Coastal Region

Columbia Region projects: 43 projects: 11 fish, 32 wildlife, ~ \$5.7 million

FISH

- Improving habitat and connectivity for bull trout
- Restoring habitat for shore-spawning kokanee in Kootenav Lake
- Monitoring bull trout in the North Columbia
- Improving fish passage in the Elk River Watershed
- Adding nutrients to Arrow Lakes Reservoir and Kootenay Lake
- Improving rainbow trout habitat at the Murphy Creek spawning channel
- Supporting Meadow Creek spawning channel at Kootenay Lake
- Supporting Hill Creek spawning channel on Arrow Lakes Reservoir
- Supporting white sturgeon recovery in the Columbia River
- Supporting First Nations delivery of FWCPdirected fish projects

WILDLIFE

- Improving bighorn sheep movement and forage
- Assessing rare wetland importance
- Restoring wetland habitat
- · Addressing invasives in the East Kootenay
- Supporting white-tailed deer in the Columbia Mountains
- Improving habitat for at-risk swallows
- Addressing invasives in the East Kootenay
- Conserving at-risk turtles in the East Kootenay
- Filling information gaps about pollinators in the West Kootenay
- Supporting East Kootenay whitebark pine
- Improving habitat and connectivity in the East Kootenay
- · Creating pollinator habitat
- Supporting youth crews to steward conservation lands
- Improving riparian function by removing invasives
- Reducing wildlife highway mortalities

- Reducing grizzly bear conflicts
- Conserving bighorn sheep in the North Columbia
- Establishing and monitoring bat abundance and diversity
- Restoring wetland and riparian habitat for waterfowl, fish, and wildlife
- Protecting endangered northern leopard frogs from invasive bull frogs
- Enhancing habitat for bighorn sheep and ungulates
- Conserving Cottonwood Lake
- Supporting community-based projects
- Restoring and enhancing wetlands
- Enhancing habitat for non-game species
- Supporting northern leopard frog recovery
- · Supporting caribou recovery
- Enhancing East Kootenay ecosystems
- Supporting land securement and stewardship of conservation lands
- Enhancing West Kootenay ecosystems

Peace Region projects: 26 projects: 9 fish, 17 wildlife, ~ \$1.3 million

FISH

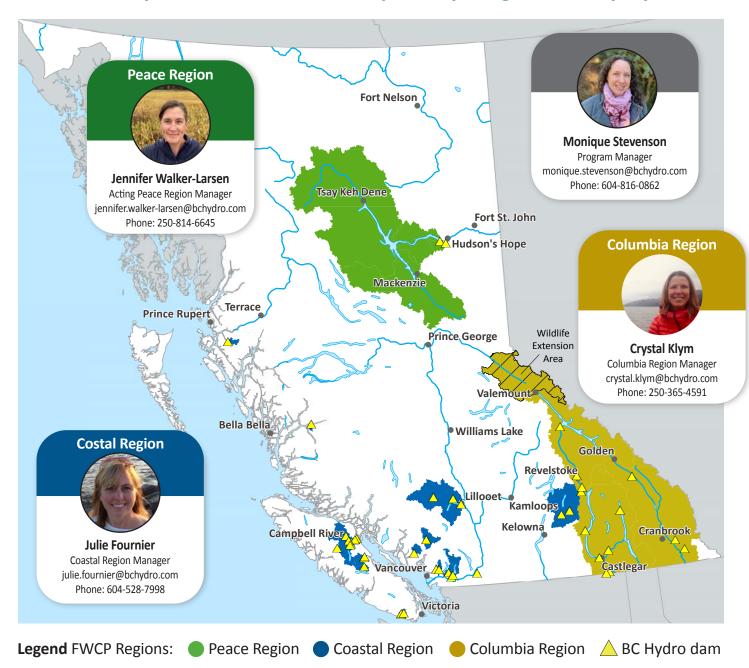
- Studying Arctic grayling and bull trout in the Williston Reservoir
- Improving understanding of fish ecology using eDNA
- Studying Arctic grayling
- Using eDNA to locate Arctic grayling
- Assessing bull trout populations and habitats
- Assessing bull trout spawning habitat
- · Improving fish passage
- Understanding limiting factors for key fish species

WILDLIFE

- Improving the science about moose limiting factors
- Improving caribou survival through maternity penning
- Testing drones to monitor corridor restoration
- Improving the science about at-risk water shrews
- Supporting habitat restoration trials for amphibians
- Restoring caribou habitat in our Peace Region
- Developing a moose habitat enhancement project
- Monitoring lichen restoration for caribou
- Assessing Chase caribou response to habitat alterations

- Assessing the health of Stone's sheep
- Building ecological awareness
- Monitoring waterfowl nesting structures
- Implementing moose and caribou habitat restoration
- Supporting community-based projects
- Assessing kokanee abundance
- Supporting Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station

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