FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
1	PEA-F24-F-3868	**Improving understanding of degradation rates of eDNA** *Application of an Aquatic eDNA Degradation Rate Assay:* Following up on the results of an FWCP Seed Grant to establish an environmental DNA (eDNA) degradation rate assay, this multi-year project will pair eDNA fish surveys for Arctic grayling with field trials that investigate associated degradation rates. Understanding eDNA degradation rates is critical to the interpretation of eDNA projects and will ultimately provide more information about critical habitats that would benefit from conservation or enhancement.	University of Northern British Columbia	$63,083	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Basin-wide
2	PEA-F24-F-3848	**Examining bull trout spawner abundance and critical habitats** *Bull Trout Spawner Abundance and Critical Habitats:* This multi-year project will provide estimates of bull trout spawner abundance by performing ground-based counts of bull trout spawning sites (i.e., redds) within index sites in four streams that have been monitored annually since 2001, as well as four new index sites. This work will inform a framework to estimate bull trout spawner abundance and limiting factors at the scale of the Williston Watershed, which will be used to identify appropriate habitat conservation and enhancement actions.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$70,536	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
3	PEA-F24-F-3847	**Understanding reservoir impacts on Williston bull trout** *Williston Bull Trout Population Structure and Life History:* This three-year study will seek to fill gaps in Williston bull trout data through biological sampling of adult and juvenile fish, and laboratory analysis of tissue samples. The need for this research was identified in our 2019 Bull Trout Synthesis Report and 2020 Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs Action Plan. The information will help ensure conservation of genetic diversity and increase understanding of the effect of reservoir creation on Williston bull trout.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$117,251	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Basin-wide
4	PEA-F24-F-3845	**Supporting cold-water fish in the face of climate change** *Modelling Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin:* This project will focus on the cumulative effects of land use, climate change, and water flow regulation on river water temperatures in the upper Peace River Basin. Using a three-scale temperature monitoring and modelling approach, the project's primary goal will be to quantify and predict the spatial distribution of thermal habitat for cold-water fish. A secondary objective is to construct a network of water temperature loggers in the Williston Watershed, from headwater streams down to the Peace River. The project outcomes will provide valuable information for the management of cold-water-adapted fish.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$82,638	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
5	PEA-F24-F-3838	**Surveying Arctic grayling in the Parsnip Watershed** *Parsnip River Watershed Arctic Grayling Conservation:* This two-year study will carry out snorkel surveys on the Anzac and Table rivers, believed to be the most important hub for Arctic grayling in the Williston watershed. The data will help refine and implement a conservation plan for this fish species impacted by construction of W.A.C. Bennett Dam on the Peace River.	Province of B.C.	$69,556	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Parsnip Sub-region
6	PEA-F24-F-3834	**Conserving critical habitats for Arctic grayling** *Critical Habitats of Arctic Grayling in Parsnip Tributaries*:* For Northern B.C.'s river-dwelling Arctic grayling populations, the reservoir created by the W.A.C. Bennett Dam on the Peace River permanently reduced the availability of critical habitat by converting river habitat into lake habitat. The second year of this project will combine radio telemetry, snorkel surveys, and drone and thermal imaging to show how the fine-scale behaviour and distribution of Arctic grayling can be used to locate and inform conservation actions for critical habitats in the Anzac and Table rivers.	University of Northern British Columbia	$111,298	Research and Information Acquisition	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Parsnip Sub-region
		Grant-based Fish Project Total:		**$514,362 (6 projects)**			

* Project was withdrawn by the proponent subsequent to board approval.

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Directed Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
7	PEA-F24-F-3944-DCA	**Improving fish passage in our Peace Region** *F24 Fish Passage with Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC Year 3:* This multi-year project will start implementing fish passage restoration actions based on priority sites identified from previously funded projects (PEA-F20-F-2967 and PEA-F22-F-3577). This project makes previously inaccessible high-quality habitat available to priority fish species in the Williston watershed, compensating for some of the river habitat lost with the creation of W.A.C. Bennett Dam. In 2023, the project will install a bridge over a tributary to the Parsnip River and begin plans to replace another culvert on Fern Creek in 2024. This year's work follows a bridge project on a tributary to the Missinka River, completed in 2022.	Society For Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC	$200,424	Habitat-based Action	Rivers, Lakes, & Reservoirs	Parsnip Sub-region
Fish Directed Project Total:				**$200,424 (1 project)**			

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
8	PEA-F24-W-3883	**Restoring caribou habitat for a Peace Region herd** *Restoring Caribou Habitat in the Klinse-Za Herd Year 5:* In the fifth year of this multi-year project, work will continue to implement and monitor the functional and ecological restoration of 12 linear corridors in the herd area. Outcomes expected include the deactivation and reforestation of six sites totalling ~62 kilometres, adding to the ~58 kilometres of linear corridors treated to date. Ultimately, this project will result in reduced human access, predator use, and predator movement rates, leading to accelerated forest regeneration and improved habitat for caribou.	Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$112,845	Habitat-based Action	Uplands	Basin-wide
9	PEA-F24-W-3874	**Promoting environmental stewardship in youth** *Tsay Keh Dene Environmental Outreach Week:* Youth in the Tsay Keh Dene community will take part in a week-long environmental education program that promotes environmental stewardship. The program will connect students with traditional knowledge through the participation of elders, and combine it with western science knowledge, both in the classroom and in the field.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$24,804	Research and Information Acquisition	Cross-Ecosystem	Finlay Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
10	PEA-F24-W-3865	**Stone's sheep: filling data gaps to inform conservation plans** *Health and Behaviour of B.C.'s Southernmost Stone's Sheep Year 5:* This project to assess health of Stone's sheep will focus on the two southernmost functionally viable herds of the species: the Dunlevy and Schooler herds. Due to their proximity to domestic farms and overlap with elk, these wild sheep are at high risk. In this final year, the project will compare monitoring results, including health assessments and population demographics, from 2020-2023 with data collected in the same area from 1999-2005. The results will help guide habitat enhancement approaches to increase habitat quality and encourage greater separation between Stone's sheep, elk, and domestic animals to mitigate population decline resulting from disease transmission.	Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia	$29,299	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Peace Sub-region
11	PEA-F24-W-3864	**Studying caribou predation in Nak'azdli Whut'en territory** *Wolf Density and Distribution in the Wolverine Caribou Herd:* Wolves are the main predator of caribou in the Wolverine herd, which is seeing a rapid decline. Caribou are one of the primary sources of food for Nak'azdli Whut'en members, who no longer hunt caribou for sustenance due to the declining population. The first year of this project will use GPS collars to track wolves in the range of the Wolverine caribou herd. Research will help understand wolf movements and kill rates and where caribou and wolves interact. This information is critical to develop management, conservation and enhancement actions to support the herd's recovery.	Nak'azdli Whut'en	$66,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Finlay Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
12	PEA-F24-W-3861	**Caribou: improving calf survival and herd size through maternity penning** *Enhancing Caribou Survival in the Klinse-Za Herd:* This multi-year project aims to enhance the survival rate of caribou cows and calves in the Klinse-Za herd through maternity penning. Pregnant cow caribou will be captured in early March and transported to a protective pen located in natural calving range. The cows will be fed and monitored through late July—until calves have grown to a point where they are less susceptible to predation by wolves and bears—then released back into the wild.	Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$38,571	Species-based Action	Uplands	Basin-wide
13	PEA-F24-W-3851	**Restoring the Rochfort caribou maternity pen** *Post-operation Restoration of the Rochfort Maternity Pen:* A maternity pen for caribou near Hudson's Hope has been used for four years, and vegetation at the ~15-hectare site has been degraded by operations and caribou foraging in the pen. The goal of this project is to plant native species within the pen and surrounding area to stimulate the restoration process and monitor the planted species for survival to determine if further restoration is needed.	Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$8,316	Habitat-based Action	Uplands	Peace Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
14	PEA-F24-W-3833	**Studying grizzly bear movement in Tsay Keh Dene territory** *Understanding Grizzly Bear Habitat Use and Populations:* This multi-year project will increase understanding of grizzly bear populations and the way they move through Tsay Keh Dene territory. An at-risk species, grizzly bears are culturally significant to the Tsay Keh Dene Nation. Building from a pilot field season in summer 2022 that refined field data collection and site selection methods, this project will use landscape connectivity modelling and camera trap surveys as well as hair snags to gather information on grizzly bear movement, demographics, diet, and health. Results will help develop stewardship actions to protect grizzly bears.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$35,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Finlay Sub-region
15	PEA-F24-W-3827	**Restoring abandoned access roads to caribou habitat** *Chase Caribou Road Restoration Program:* This multi-year program will use ecological and functional restoration techniques to restore abandoned resource roads in the Chase caribou herd range, and accelerate their return to a mature forest environment, reducing human and predator use. In 2023, Chu Cho Environmental and Tsay Keh Dene Nation will restore an 8.5-kilometre section of roadway within the Chuyaza Conservancy, an area of cultural importance.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$39,800	Habitat-based Action	Uplands	Finlay Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
16	PEA-F24-W-3826	**Caribou: confirming the benefits of supplemental feeding** *Physiological Effects of Supplemental Feeding in Caribou:* This multi-year project will provide insights into how supplemental feeding influences caribou pregnancy rates and calf survival, and it may help evaluate whether feeding is most beneficial in spring or fall. This final year of the project will examine physiological bioindicators in hair and pellets collected from the Kennedy Siding herd to investigate whether supplemental feeding increases the proportion of females that breed in multiple years and whether feeding increases the viability of calves.	University of Northern British Columbia	$28,178	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Parsnip Sub-region
17	PEA-F24-W-3825	**Threatened olive-sided flycatchers: filling important data gaps** *Olive-sided Flycatcher Habitat across a Disturbance Gradient:* This multi-year project will evaluate olive-sided flycatcher occupancy, habitat characteristics, and prey abundance and diversity at various sites across a natural and anthropogenic disturbance gradient. Last year, the project collected data on flycatchers in a highly disturbed watershed. In 2023, for comparison, field data will be collected in a low- or moderate-disturbance watershed. Results from this project will inform the development of habitat-based actions or land management strategies that could benefit this priority bird species.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$51,853	Research and Information Acquisition	Riparian & Wetlands	Finlay Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
18	PEA-F24-W-3824	**Improving science and knowledge of bat populations** *North American Bat Monitoring Program: Williston Expansion:* The North American Bat Monitoring Program is a multi-nation, multi-agency coordinated bat monitoring program to assess population status and trends, inform responses to stressors, and sustain viable populations. This project will continue to gather baseline data on bats in the Willison Reservoir watershed, prior to the potential arrival of white-nose syndrome in B.C. Gathering these data is a high-priority action in the endangered bats federal recovery strategy and will help determine the extent of population declines once the disease begins affecting bats in the province. With further understanding of the bats in this region and their habitat types, recovery actions can be implemented. This project is also an opportunity for interested First Nations to learn bat monitoring skills, use specialized tools, and contribute to bat conservation on both a local and continental scale.	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	$68,683	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Basin-wide
19	PEA-F24-W-3815	**Developing new methodology to map lichen in caribou ranges** *Using Remote Sensing to Map Lichen in Caribou Habitat:* This single-year project will estimate lichen distribution and abundance in the ranges of northern caribou. The project will develop a new modelling approach using satellite imagery and developing spectral metrics to identify lichen biomass. Lichen are an important food source for northern caribou, and the research will provide a valuable tool for caribou conservation.	LGL Limited Environmental Research Associates Ltd.	$66,719	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Finlay Sub-region

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
20	PEA-F24-W-3792	**Expanding data collection for birds and bats** *Motus Wildlife Tracking System: Peace Basin Expansion:* This project will continue to expand the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to track birds and bats affixed with digitally encoded radio transmitters. Results from this array can track bats and birds across thousands of kilometres and can map movements to help identify critical habitat and effective conservation measures (e.g., appropriate industry setback distances) for key species, such as little brown myotis bat, white-throated sparrow, and at-risk bank swallows. This project will involve community groups installing stations at schools and other locations to incorporate the Motus Education Program, which builds knowledge about birds, bats, and conservation, for grades 7–12.	Bird Studies Canada	$101,184	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Basin-wide
21	PEA-F24-W-3790	**Maintaining nesting enhancements in the Williston Watershed** *Maintaining Peace Region Waterfowl Nesting Enhancements:* In 2020 and 2021, the FWCP funded waterfowl nesting enhancements in the Parsnip and Dinosaur sub-regions. This project will revisit these enhancements—such as floating islands and nest boxes—to inspect, maintain, and replace if needed.	Blackbird Environmental Ltd.	$28,725	Habitat-based Action	Riparian & Wetlands	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
22	PEA-F24-W-3841	**Gathering knowledge of sensitive habitats in Williston's Carbon Inlet** *Identifying Sensitive Habitat Areas in the Carbon Inlet:* This Seed Grant will allow Saulteau First Nation to use existing data, government, and independent studies to determine the best way to identify sensitive habitats in the Carbon Inlet area of Williston Reservoir. A feasibility study will combine the knowledge of flora, fauna, and human use of the inlet, and form the basis for a broader monitoring plan for sensitive habitat areas.	Saulteau First Nation	$4,948	Research and Information Acquisition	Cross-Ecosystem	Peace Sub-region
23	PEA-F24-W-3839	**Determining non-invasive ways to assess at-risk wolverine** *Feasibility Analysis of Wolverine Abundance and Connectivity:* It has been 21 years since wolverine have been assessed in the territory of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation and since that time, there has been an increase in industrial development. This at-risk species of Special Concern is culturally significant to the Tsay Keh Dene Peoples, and climate change has had known impacts on wolverine populations. This Seed Grant project will investigate the feasibility of using genetic sampling to estimate wolverine abundance and new methods to identify wolverine den locations within Tsay Keh Dene territory.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$5,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Uplands	Basin-wide
24	PEA-F24-W	**Supporting community-based projects** *F24 Community Engagement Grant:* Our Peace Region board approved funding for Community Engagement Grants. These grants of up to $1,000 support multiple projects led by stewardship groups, First Nations, and others to benefit fish and wildlife.	TBD	$5,000	TBD	TBD	Basin-wide
Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:				**$714,925 (17 projects)**			

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
25	PEA-F24-W-DCA	**Enhancing winter range for moose** *F24 Moose Habitat Enhancement Project in the Parsnip Watershed:* Building on an FWCP Seed Grant, this project will assess and enhance priority areas of winter range for moose west of McLeod Lake. The multi-year project responds to declines in moose and concerns about sustenance harvest requirements for First Nations and may include direct planting, use of mechanical clearing/thinning, controlled burning to create or alter habitat, road deactivation and rehabilitation through planting of forage species and trees and pruning of old willow (Salix sp.) growth to enhance winter forage quality. The first year of this project will focus on developing treatment options and performing baseline monitoring for restoration and enhancement of critical moose winter habitat.	TBD & McLeod Lake Indian Band	$103,070	Habitat-based Action	Riparian & Wetlands	Parsnip Sub-region
26	PEA-F24-W-3945-DCA	**Building ecological awareness in our Peace Region** *F24 Williston School Ecology Project:* This multi-year project will improve understanding of local ecology for Peace Region elementary and high-school students through outdoor-based, hands-on environmental education in rural schools. All modules tie in with provincial curricula and bring in local ecology and First Nations knowledge to illustrate concepts and ideas (e.g., timber cruising to apply statistics, and spawning trout to illustrate life cycles).	Wildlife Infometrics Inc.	$32,534	Research and Information Acquisition	Cross-Ecosystem	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2023–2024 Project List

#	Project ID	2023-2024 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Action Plan Alignment	Sub-Region
27	PEA-F24-W-3943-DCA	**Gathering important breeding bird data at Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station** *Mugaha Marsh Banding Station 2023–2024:* This long-term, multi-year project will add to 20-plus years of bird monitoring data. The 2023 data will provide important information on breeding bird population trends, distribution, and health, which can guide species conservation and habitat enhancement initiatives in the region.	Mackenzie Nature Observatory	$25,050	Research and Information Acquisition	Cross-Ecosystem	Parsnip Sub-region
28	PEA-F24-W-3942-DCA	**Building knowledge and understanding with support from UNBC** *F24 UNBC Presentation Series:* This multi-year project provides education and outreach by building connections and developing relationships through a series of free presentations focused on research that is underway in, or could be applied to, our Peace Region.	University of Northern British Columbia	$15,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Cross-Ecosystem	Basin-wide
		Wildlife Directed Project Total:		**$175,654 (4 projects)**			
		2023–2024 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:		**$1,605,365 (28 projects)**			