FWCP
Fish & Wildlife
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

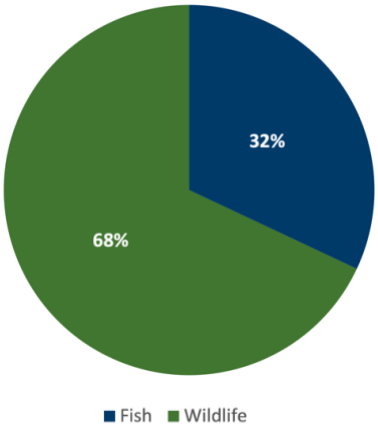
PEACE REGION FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS 2025-2026

25 fish and wildlife projects approved in our Peace Region

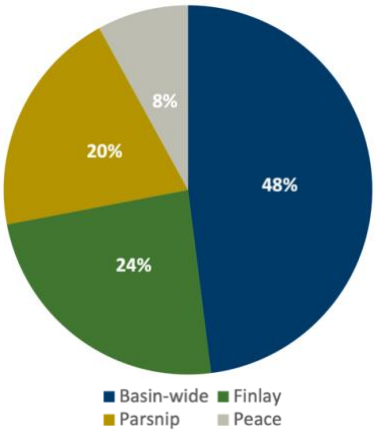
Our Peace Region board approved approximately $2.1 million for 25 projects in 2025-2026. The projects—8 fish and 17 wildlife—will be delivered by First Nations, communities, and businesses, as well as agencies, stewardship groups, and consultants.

The projects align with our priorities for riparian areas, wetlands, uplands, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The projects are diverse and support a wide range of fish species including bull trout, Arctic grayling, and kokanee, and wildlife such as wolverine, bats, caribou, Stone's sheep, elk, and moose.

Fish & Wildlife Projects



Projects by Sub-region



The 2025-2026 projects will, among other things, improve fish passage by removing hanging culverts, study changes in elk movements, and recover Endangered caribou herds with maternity penning and habitat restoration. Several projects respond to First Nations' priorities related to moose and food sustainability, culturally important plants, and bull trout populations.

$9.2 million approved for 72 fish and wildlife projects in our three regions

The FWCP's regional boards approved $9.2 million to fund 30 fish and 42 wildlife projects in 2025-2026. Habitat-based projects account for more than three-quarters of the project funding.

The boards also approved more than $1.2 million to support the purchase and protection of critical habitats across our three regions. New funding—about $70,000—was approved for Seed Grants, and another $32,500 was approved for Community Engagement Grants.

Learn more about the FWCP: follow us and subscribe!

We're 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.

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
1	PEA-F26-F-4225	**Monitoring bull trout spawner populations in the Williston Reservoir Watershed** *Bull Trout Spawner Abundance and Critical Habitats:* This multi-year project will provide estimates of bull trout spawner abundance within index sites in the Misinchinka River long-term monitoring site, and in four new index stream sections in Pelly, Pesika, and Lay creeks, and the Anzac River. The project will also begin work to identify future enhancement opportunities for bull trout. This project supports other work to evaluate thermal habitat availability and the abundance of other fish in Williston Reservoir, which could be influencing population trends for bull trout.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$78,050	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
2	PEA-F26-F-4235	**Assessing Arctic grayling abundance in Williston Reservoir tributaries** *West Shore Arctic Grayling Abundance and Critical Habitats:* This multi-year project will assess Arctic grayling abundance and critical habitat in tributaries on the west shore of Williston Reservoir. This project will use eDNA and snorkel surveys on the Nation, Omineca, lower Finlay, and Osilinka Rivers to detect Arctic grayling and establish long-term index sections in these rivers for future monitoring, as well as in the Mesilinka and Ingenika watersheds.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$104,930	Research & Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
3	PEA-F26-F-4210	**Assessing bull trout populations and changes in life history** *Williston Bull Trout Population Structure and Life History:* This multi-year information-gathering project will fill important gaps in Williston bull trout data through biological sampling of adult and juvenile fish, and laboratory analysis of tissue samples. The goal of this three-year project is to better understand the impacts of the reservoir creation on bull trout populations and ensure conservation of genetic diversity. This project will address high-priority data gaps identified in the FWCP's Bull Trout Information Synthesis and Monitoring Framework.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$45,339	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2024 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
4	PEA-F26-F-4236	**Supporting cold-water fish in the face of climate change** *Modeling Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin:* This multi-year project will focus on the cumulative effects of land use, climate change, and water flow regulation on 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 maintain and expand the network of water temperature loggers in the Williston Reservoir 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	$123,223	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
Grant-based Fish Project Total:				**$351,542 (4 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Directed Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
5	PEA-F26-F-4315-DCA	**Identifying habitat enhancement sites for Arctic grayling** *Arctic Grayling Enhancement Opportunities:* The objective of this project is to further refine a scope of work to enhance Arctic grayling populations in the Parsnip River Watershed. This year, desktop and field activities will assess the Arctic grayling population in key tributaries and identify sites for future enhancement, targeting Arctic grayling at the youngest life stages when they are most vulnerable. This project aligns with the FWCP's Arctic Grayling Synthesis Report and Monitoring Framework.	TBD	$75,000	Habitat-Based Action	Parsnip
6	PEA-F26-F-4279-DCA	**Removing culverts to improve fish passage in our Peace Region** *Improving Fish Passage in Our Peace Region*: This multi-year project is implementing prioritized fish passage restoration activities (e.g., replacing hanging culverts that block fish passage) that were identified and prioritized at the beginning of this project. This work builds restoration capacity, mentoring partners such as McLeod Lake Indian Band in planning, data collection, and communications activities.	Society For Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC	$225,383	Habitat-Based Action	Parsnip

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Directed Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
7	PEA-F26-F-4333-DCA	**Understanding population trends in Williston Reservoir kokanee** *Kokanee Spawner Size at Age Assessments:* This multi-year project will monitor trends in kokanee size at different ages when they are spawning in tributaries of the Williston Reservoir. Understanding these trends will provide insight into the population status of kokanee in the reservoir, and that could potentially signal population changes that could be relevant to ecosystem management and inform next steps including further investigation. In collaboration with local First Nations, kokanee will be collected at sites across the watershed, measured and aged.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$41,900	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
8	PEA-F26-F-4354-DCA	**Developing guidance for Arctic grayling projects** *Arctic Grayling Synthesis and Framework Update:* This project will update the Arctic Grayling Synthesis Report and Monitoring Framework to guide grant applicants on current priorities for Arctic grayling in the region. The project will undertake a review of the outcomes of Arctic grayling projects that have been undertaken since the synthesis and framework were developed in 2018, assess the progress on the priority monitoring needs, and refine the recommended priority monitoring needs and restoration actions.	John Hagen and Associates	$20,000	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
			Fish Directed Project Total:	**$362,283 (4 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
9	PEA-F26-W-4198	**Conserving ecologically and culturally significant plants in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory** *Tsay Keh Dene Herbarium for Plant and Knowledge Conservation:* Plants, lichens, and fungi that are integral to the ecology and culture of Tsay Keh Dene Nation since time immemorial are at risk due to climate change, human activities, and natural disturbances. This project will focus on continuing to collect important botanical data with elders, provide mentorship to citizens, and create synergies with research projects in the Territory. These activities promote conservation, facilitate inter-generational knowledge transfer, provide educational opportunities, and formally document biological and cultural data that is a resource for the Nation and others interested in northern flora.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$55,324	Research & Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
10	PEA-F26-W-4202	**Assessing wolverine density and abundance in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory** *Wolverine Density and Abundance in the Chase Range:* Wolverine are a Species of Special Concern and have cultural significance to the Tsay Keh Dene Nation. This multi-year project will use non-invasive genetic sampling to estimate wolverine density and abundance within Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory, with a focus on the Chase caribou herd range, west of the Williston Reservoir. Climate change, trapping, and habitat disturbance correlate to declines in wolverine populations and their prey.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$68,804	Research & Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
11	PEA-F26-W-4207	**Understanding bird and bat movements to identify critical habitats** *Motus Wildlife Tracking System: Peace Basin Expansion:* This multi-year project will expand the Motus Wildlife Tracking System which currently has 23 tracking stations in our Peace Region. This system tracks birds and bats that have been tagged with digitally encoded radio transmitters. Monitoring their movements helps to identify critical habitat and effective conservation measures. This year, the project will tag and track bank swallows to identify key breeding, foraging, and roosting habitat using the array of mini Motus stations installed in 2024. Up to two additional mini Motus stations and one full-size Motus station will be installed in collaboration with Tsay Keh Dene and Kwadacha Nations. As well as maintaining the tracking stations, this project will engage with local schools and communities to build knowledge about birds, bats, and conservation.	Birds Canada	$131,656	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
12	PEA-F26-W-4215	**Restoring abandoned access roads to support caribou recovery** *Chase Caribou Road Restoration Program:* This multi-year project will use ecological and functional restoration techniques to restore abandoned resource roads in the Chase caribou herd range. This year approximately eight kilometres of roads will be restored. Restoring roads will help accelerate the herd's return to a mature forest environment. Linear features, like roads and trails, can increase caribou mortality by making it easier for predators to move into high-elevation habitats that would normally provide security for caribou.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$48,605	Habitat-Based Action	Finlay
13	PEA-F26-W-4216	**Restoring caribou habitat for a Peace Region herd** *Restoring Caribou Habitat in the Klinse-Za Herd Range:* The focus of this multi-year project is on restoring habitat for the at-risk Klinse-Za caribou herd and managing access to the range to reduce impacts on the population. Work is focused on 13 restoration sites in the herd area near Chetwynd. This year, restoration treatments are planned for ~20 kilometres of road, adding to the ~90 kilometres of linear corridors already treated during this project. This project will result in reduced human access, reduced predator use, and predator movement rates, and will lead to accelerated forest regeneration and improved habitat for caribou.	Nikanese Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$114,766	Habitat-Based Action	Peace

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
14	PEA-F26-W-4221	**Caribou: improving calf survival and herd size through maternity penning** *Enhancing Caribou Survival in the Klinse-Za/Scott East Herd Area:* 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 maternity pen located in the caribou's natural calving range. The cows will be fed and monitored until mid-summer—when calves have grown to a point where they are less susceptible to predation by wolves and bears—then released back into the wild. The project enhances survival of calves and supports recovery efforts while habitat restoration is underway.	Nikanese Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$71,750	Species-Based Action	Basin-wide
15	PEA-F26-W-4259	**Restoring the Bickford caribou maternity pen** *Post-Operation Restoration of the Bickford Maternity Pen:* A maternity pen for caribou has been used for the past three years and penning infrastructure remains at the site. This year's activities will include disposal and recycling of the anthropogenic materials that remain on site so that the area can be used as safe caribou calving habitat.	Nikanese Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$45,160	Habitat-Based Action	Peace

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
16	PEA-F26-W-4219	**Assessing Stone's sheep habitat in our Peace Region** *Stone's Sheep Range Condition in Northern B.C.:* This project will fill knowledge gaps about Stone's sheep nutrition and range condition in the Tatlatui, Swannel, and Russel ranges near the northern end of Williston Reservoir to better understand habitat needs. Stone's sheep have significant socioeconomic, cultural, and ecological value and are a priority species in our Peace Region. More than 90 per cent of the global population of Stone's sheep live in B.C.	Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia	$84,571	Research & Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
17	PEA-F26-W-4264	**Studying caribou predation in Nak'azdli Whut'en Territory** *Wolf Density and Distribution in the Wolverine Caribou Herd, Year 3:* The goal of this project is to obtain updated information on the wolf population in the Wolverine caribou herd range on the west side of Williston Reservoir. 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 community members, who no longer hunt caribou for sustenance due to the declining population. This year, one or two additional wolves in new wolf packs will be collared. Currently 19 wolves in nine packs are collared and provide important information on wolf movements and distribution. Collar data is critical to developing management, conservation, and enhancement actions to support the herd's recovery.	Nak'azdli Whut'en	$55,450	Research & Information Acquisition	Finlay

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
18	PEA-F26-W-4266	**Nak'azdli Whut'en assesses elk population and movements** *Elk Distribution and Expansion on the Nation River, Year 2:* This monitoring and assessment project will determine if elk are expanding their range to the west side of Williston Reservoir. If elk have expanded their range to the west side of the reservoir, likely due to climate change and increased fire frequency, this would alter predator-prey dynamics and impact other ungulates. A combination of GPS collars, surveys of First Nation community members about sightings, and future climate projections will be used to confirm current habitat use and predict future elk range.	Nak'azdli Whut'en	$59,012	Research & Information Acquisition	Parsnip

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
19	PEA-F26-W-4251	**Improving science and knowledge of bat populations** *North American Bat Monitoring Program: Williston, Year 3:* The North American Bat Monitoring Program is a multi-nation, multi-agency co-ordinated 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 Williston Reservoir Watershed, prior to the arrival of White Nose Syndrome. 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.	Zonal Ecosystem and Wildlife Consultants Ltd.	$71,658	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
20	PEA-F26-W-4273	**Conserving wetlands in our Peace Region** *Wetland Conservation in Peace Country:* This project will use GIS data to assess the health of wetlands that are close to roads. Wetlands with degraded health will be targeted for future restoration. In the northern boreal mountains eco-region, the project will collect data for the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol, which is a tool that can be used by government, non-profits, and Indigenous Nations to support better wetland mitigation and protection. Effectiveness monitoring and maintenance will also occur at past restoration sites, including McIntyre Lake, which was restored with FWCP funding in F25.	British Columbia Wildlife Federation	$118,475	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:				**$925,231(12 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
21	PEA-F26-W-4331-DCA	**Leveraging academic partnerships with UNBC** *2025-26 Colloquium Presentation Series:* This multi-year project provides education and outreach by building connections and developing relationships. Three free presentations focused on fish and wildlife research that is underway in, or could be applied to, our Peace Region will take place in the fall, winter, and spring.	University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)	$15,000	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
22	PEA-F26-W-4291-DCA	**Understanding long-term trends in breeding birds at Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station** *Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station 2025-26:* This long-term, multi-year project will add to 20-plus years of bird monitoring data collected at the Mackenzie Nature Observatory, one of 27 stations in the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. The station monitors birds migrating through the Mugaha Marsh from northern B.C. and the Yukon. The 2025 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	$26,550	Research & Information Acquisition	Parsnip

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#	Project ID	2025-2026 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
23	PEA-F26-W-4292-DCA	**Building ecological awareness in our Peace Region** *Williston School Ecology Project:* Currently in its 12th year, this 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 include First Nations knowledge and local ecology to illustrate concepts and ideas (e.g., timber cruising to apply statistics, and spawning trout to illustrate life cycles).	Mackenzie Community Arts Council	$40,240	Research & Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
24	PEA-F26-W-4334-DCA	**Enhancing winter range for moose** *Moose Habitat Enhancement, Year 3:* The multi-year project will assess and enhance priority areas of winter range for moose. This year, the project will complete manual brushing of dense monoculture spruce forests and restore legacy forestry roads Moose are a priority species in our Peace Region and a species of concern for First Nations.	Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC and McLeod Lake Indian Band	$290,000	Habitat-Based Action	Parsnip

FWCP Peace Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
25	TBC	**Moose Habitat Enhancement Scoping Project** *Moose Enhancement, Biodiversity and Food Sovereignty*: By consensus, FWCP Peace region's partner First Nations will collaboratively pursue a project aimed at enhancing moose habitat to support strengthened harvesting and food sovereignty. The project will be led individually by each Nation in their respective areas but collaborative in nature with shared objectives and information sharing opportunities. This year, the Nations will each develop a detailed scope of work for board approval and will discuss and agree on the shared objectives for the project and opportunities to collaborate.	Peace Region partner First Nations	$85,000	Species-based	TBD
Wildlife Directed Project Total:				**$456,790 (5 projects)**		
2025-2026 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:				**$2,095,846 (25 PROJECTS)**		