



COLUMBIA REGION GUIDANCE FOR ANNUAL GRANT APPLICANTS 2025

In our Columbia Region, all grant applicants must start their application by submitting a mandatory [notice of intent](#)—a short description of your proposed project—by 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**.

All completed grant applications must be submitted online by 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on **Monday, November 3, 2025**.

If you're applying for an FWCP grant, start by reading this document with information about:

- FWCP grants available
- Deadlines and key dates
- Guidance, priorities, and mandatory requirements
- What we're looking for in a grant application
- How grant applications are evaluated

Complete your mandatory notice of intent and grant application [online](#).

Learn more about our grants! Join us for these online information sessions.	
Thursday, August 7, 2025 10-11 a.m. PT 11 a.m.-12 p.m. MT	INTRODUCTION TO THE COLUMBIA REGION'S NOTICE OF INTENT Register now . Our Columbia Region board is working to strengthen engagement of First Nations in the fish and wildlife projects we fund. All grant applicants must start their application by submitting a mandatory notice of intent —a short description of your proposed project—by Tuesday, September 9, 2025 . Join our online information session to learn more about this opportunity.
Thursday, October 2, 2025 1-2 p.m. PT 2-3 p.m. MT	OVERVIEW OF OUR GRANT INTAKE Register now . Find out more about our grants and how to align your project idea with our regional action plans. Get answers to your questions and tips to help you succeed!

Questions? Contact our Columbia Region Manager

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Grants available year-round

Outside of our annual grant intake, you can apply for three other types of grants any time of year, subject to available funding.

[Seed Grants](#) can help you explore the feasibility of your project idea and could be the first step towards developing a larger project. **Up to a maximum of \$5,000** is available from the FWCP for project ideas that align with our regional action plans. [Learn more.](#)

You can also contact us any time of year to discuss [Land Securement Grants](#), due to the time-sensitive nature of real-estate transactions. [Learn more.](#)

Got an idea for a project to support fish and wildlife? Apply for a [Community Engagement Grant](#) of up to \$1,500 any time. It’s a short application and we’ll get back to you quickly. [Learn more.](#)

OUR GRANT INTAKE CYCLE—DEADLINES AND KEY DATES

Please note that although the key steps in our application process and project cycle are the same from year to year, the specific deadline dates vary.

Grant application intake opens
Monday, July 28, 2025

Start your application and submit your mandatory notice of intent by
Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Grant application intake closes
Monday, November 3, 2025

Application review
Three-stage evaluation of all grant applications
November 2025–February 2026

Notification
Grant applicants notified of regional board's decision
February 2026

WHO MAY APPLY?

Eligible grant applicants include Indigenous Nations, communities, and businesses; consultants, agencies, non-government organizations, individuals, and academic institutions. Applications are encouraged from Indigenous Nations, stewardship groups, and non-government organizations.

All grant applicants must be able to provide:

1. a WorkSafeBC clearance letter; and
2. proof of commercial general liability.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN FWCP GRANT?

1. Projects that align with our Columbia Region action plans

Each priority action in our [action plans](#) is identified as OPEN, OPEN/DIRECTED, or DIRECTED. Your project must be aligned to an **OPEN** or **OPEN/DIRECTED** priority action to be eligible for a grant.

Delivery method?	Eligible for a grant?
OPEN	Eligible for a grant. Go ahead and apply!
OPEN/DIRECTED	Eligible for a grant. Go ahead and apply!
DIRECTED	Not eligible for a grant. Do not apply for a grant for this action. Our regional boards will address DIRECTED projects through other funding mechanisms.

2. Projects that are a priority 1 action only

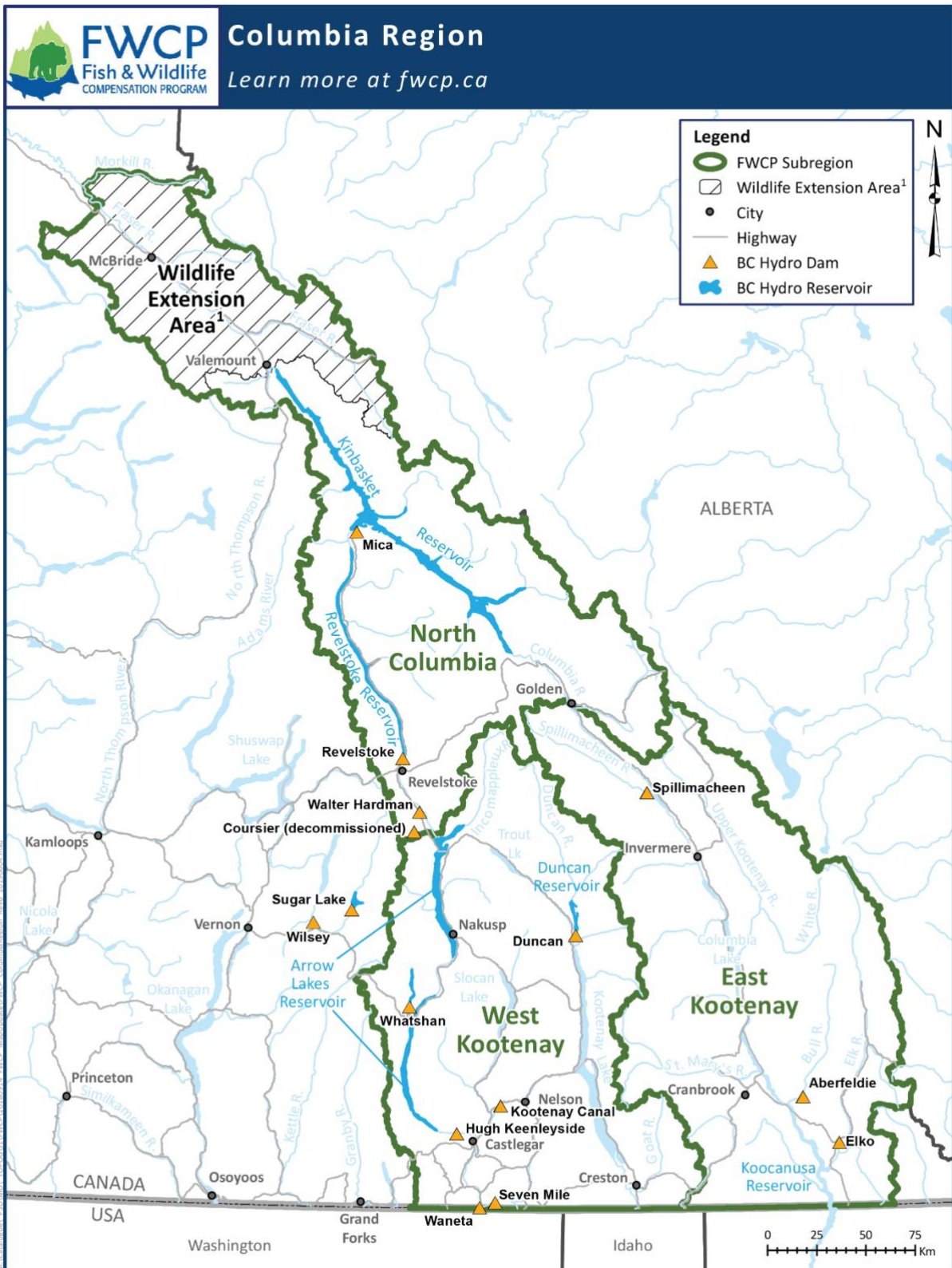
Only grant applications that have a **primary** alignment with a **priority 1 action** will be accepted in this year's grant intake. Grant applications that have a **primary** alignment with **priority 2 or 3 actions** will not be accepted in this year's grant intake (i.e., grant applications that align with a priority 2 or 3 action as the **secondary** action will be accepted).

RESERVOIRS AND LARGE LAKES ACTION TABLE - ECOSYSTEMS (PISCIVOROUS RAINBOW TROUT)							Version: AUG2019	
Action #	Action Type	Priority Action Short Description	Priority	Priority Area	Target Species	Priority Action	Intended Outcome	Delivery Approach
17	Monitoring and Evaluation	CORLLECO.ME.17.0 Effectiveness monitoring of past piscivorous Rainbow Trout projects in Kootenay, Arrow-P1	1	Kootenay Lake Arrow Lakes	Piscivorous Rainbow Trout	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of previous FWCP piscivorous Rainbow Trout habitat-based projects. Include an approach for adaptive management, information sharing and collaboration among agencies and the public stakeholders to increase the efficacy of conservation action.	Ensuring habitat-based actions are functioning as intended.	Directed / Open
		CORLLECO.ME.17.0 Effectiveness monitoring of past piscivorous Rainbow Trout projects in Duncan, Kinbasket-P2	2	Duncan Kinbasket				

Figure 1: Review our action plans to confirm the priority ranking assigned to each of our actions. Grant applications will be accepted for only priority 1 actions this year.

3. Projects that will occur within our Columbia Region

We fund projects to be delivered within the boundaries of our [Columbia Region](#), which includes the Canadian portion of the Columbia River Basin and our wildlife extension area (northwest of Valemount). Grant applications for wildlife projects in the wildlife extension area are eligible for funding. Grant applications for fish projects in the wildlife extension area are not eligible for funding (i.e., the FWCP funds projects related to the Columbia River system, not the Fraser River). The Canadian portion of the Flathead River Basin is not part of our Columbia Region.



4. Projects that align with project eligibility criteria

Table 1: FWCP project eligibility criteria

FWCP does:	FWCP does not:
Fund actions to create, restore, or otherwise improve the function of ecosystems that have been impacted by BC Hydro activities.	Fund core activities of government or non-government agencies or programs.
Fund actions to create, restore, or otherwise improve the function of alternate ecosystems that provide a better opportunity for investment.	Lead the development of species recovery goals, or fund co-ordinate, or lead national recovery teams for species at risk.
Fund specific management actions for species of interest as identified by recovery teams and action/implementation groups.	Develop policy related to land or wildlife management.
Fund baseline inventory that contributes to the development of habitat- or species-based actions within action plans.	Administer government regulations.
Fund monitoring programs designed to measure the effectiveness of FWCP-funded habitat- and species-based actions.	Engage in enforcement and compliance activities, except in relation to co-operatively managed conservation lands.
Contribute to all aspects of managing co-operatively managed conservation lands.	Fund programs designed exclusively to address government objectives.

All applicants must complete a short online questionnaire prior to starting an application to ensure their project is eligible for an FWCP grant.

COLUMBIA REGION GUIDANCE AND REMINDERS

We strongly encourage applications that include other funding sources

We encourage grant applicants to include additional funding partners in their grant application that can help leverage FWCP funding for greater positive ecological effect.

When we review and evaluate all grant applications, we will consider both the nature of project and funding partners, and the overall project budget (i.e., is there demonstrated value for money?).

We are accepting applications for priority 1 actions only

For the F27 grant intake that opens on July 28, 2025, our Columbia Region board will be accepting only grant applications for priority 1 actions in our Columbia Region action plans.

Our Columbia Region board is committed to funding fish and wildlife projects that support our mission to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

In this era of rising costs and limited resources, it is more important than ever to ensure that the projects we fund have the most benefits to fish and wildlife. We are intentionally making sure that the projects we fund are addressing our most important priorities. For the F27 grant intake, we will be accepting only grant applications for priority 1 actions in our Columbia Region [action plans](#).

We will continue to carefully review and evaluate projects in our Columbia Region to maximize benefits to fish and wildlife through our three-stage review process that involves our program office, technical committees, First Nations Working Group, and regional board. As a reminder, all grant applicants must submit a [notice of intent](#) as the first step of an application.

Since 2022, our Columbia Region board has approved an average of \$750,000 in annual funding for grant projects. Individual grants typically range from \$8,000 to \$200,000, with an average grant amount of \$50,000. Please note that as the amount of funding requested from FWCP increases, the Board's expectations also increase. Please see page 11 for more details about how applications are evaluated.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A GRANT IN 2025?

Step 1: Develop a project idea that aligns with our Columbia Region action plans

Our Columbia Region [action plans](#) identify the priority actions eligible for FWCP grants (see the action tables in each action plan). Your proposed project must align with one or more priority 1 and 2 action(s) in any of our regional action plans. Develop a project idea that will achieve the intended outcome(s).

Step 2: Build upon past work—review relevant project reports and outcomes

Before developing your grant application, review our [project report list](#) for relevant work already completed. If there is a relevant project report, consider how, or if, the work you propose in your grant application will build on past work. The FWCP has posted more than 500 final reports on provincial databases, making our project results and data available to anyone.

You may also wish to review relevant provincial databases and map-based tools that include projects not funded by the FWCP to identify information or recommendations that could support your grant application.

[Species Inventory Web Explorer](#)

[EIRS: Environmental Information Resource System](#)

[EcoCat: Ecological Reports Catalogue](#)

[CLIR: Cross-Linked Information Resources](#)

[HabitatWizard](#)

[Fisheries Inventory Data Queries \(FIDQ\)](#)

Step 3: Start a grant application and submit your mandatory notice of intent by September 9, 2025

The Columbia Region is continuing work to strengthen engagement of First Nations in the fish and wildlife projects we fund through our annual grant intake.

The [notice of intent](#) (NOI) helps identify opportunities for First Nations perspectives on and involvement in your project. The NOI also helps our Columbia Region manager give you additional guidance to support your grant application.

The NOI is the first step in completing your grant application. All applicants, including First Nations, must submit a mandatory notice of intent online by **Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT.**

Submit your mandatory notice of intent by [starting a grant application](#).

The notice of intent includes:

- Brief project summary
- Name of grant applicant/organization and contact information
- List of other project supporters
- Project location
- Project duration (number of years)

How to start an application

If this is the first time your organization has applied online for an FWCP grant, you will first need to register. Our online grant management system will prompt you to complete and submit the mandatory notice of intent after you log in and start your grant application.

If your organization is already registered in our online grant management system but **you** have never accessed the system, please contact our Environmental Project Coordinator, Soo Lee (Soo.Lee@bchydro.com or 604-786-9409) who will set up a profile for you and link you to your organization.

Step 4: Engage with First Nations

Members of our Columbia Region's First Nations Working Group will review your NOI and determine if they want to discuss your project with you prior to the grant application deadline. Our Columbia Region manager will notify all grant applicants by late September which First Nations are interested in discussing your proposed project with you. [Learn more](#) about how to engage. Our board will consider First Nations engagement during their review of all grant applications.

Step 5: Engage with agencies, interest holders, and communities

The FWCP encourages all grant applicants to identify and involve project partners and/or funding partners to leverage FWCP funds. Engage with government agencies, interest holders, and other communities of interest as appropriate.

Step 6: Submit your online grant application by Monday, November 3, 2025

[Finish your grant application](#) and complete all sections, fulfill all mandatory requirements, and submit by **4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on Monday, November 3, 2025**. Our grant management system will validate your grant application entries immediately after you submit your application and indicate right away if any required information is missing.

We suggest you avoid submitting your application immediately before the deadline in case you need to make corrections or additions. We only review grant applications received by the deadline.

Tips for completing grant applications

- You can save your grant application and return to it anytime.
- The grant application is organized by key sections (see tabs in the online grant application) and you can complete the grant application in any order.

Tips for multi-year grant applications

- If your project spans multiple years, you must apply for funding annually. Approval of annual FWCP funding for a multi-year project **does not** guarantee FWCP funding in future years.
- If you are in year two or more of a multi-year project, you can save time by contacting our Environmental Project Coordinator, Soo Lee (Soo.Lee@bchydro.com or 604-786-9409), to request a copy of your previous application. This copy can be used to start the current year's grant application.
- If you are in year two or more of your multi-year project, your grant application must identify achievements and challenges encountered in previous year(s).

WHAT'S IN A GRANT APPLICATION?

This section provides an overview of our grant applications and what information you'll be asked to provide.

Description

Project summary: Project title, project summary statement, and project urgency

Project details: Species that will benefit, detailed project description

Applicant information

Applicant information: Organization, project contact, signing authority, collaborators, project supporters, and project volunteers

Project information

Project location information: Map, location description, project coordinates (latitude and longitude)

Alignment with action plan(s): Primary action plan, sub objective, action type, alignment with priority action and intended outcome(s), and optional alignment with secondary action plan

Single or multi-year project: Project duration, provide overview of project achievements and challenges for ongoing multi-year projects

Project phases: Start-up, field work, data entry and analysis, community engagement, draft reporting, and final reporting

Benefits: Benefits to fish and/or wildlife

Ongoing maintenance: Is ongoing maintenance required to sustain benefits?

Effectiveness monitoring: Do you have an effectiveness monitoring plan if your project involves restoration/enhancement?

Community engagement: What are your plans to share results and engage with First Nations, interest holders, and others?

Permits and approval: The status of the landownership in your project area (e.g., BC Hydro-owned lands, proximity to BC Hydro facility, or other land ownership) and information on any required permits and approvals

Funding: Is this a resubmission of a previously "not approved" application?

Project budget

Budget:

- Labour expenses, materials, equipment, transportation, and field expenses
- Project administration costs
- GST section
- Additional revenue (i.e., other funding sources, in-kind and volunteer contributions)

Notes:

- For materials and equipment, the FWCP does *not* provide funding to purchase non-consumable items (e.g., GPS units, cameras, electronics, boats, tents, etc.). Rental rates for non-consumable items are acceptable.
- How GST is claimed depends on your organization type. There are three options:
 - a) Not-for-profit, government, and CHUMS (charities, hospitals, universities, municipalities, and schools) organizations would be expected to incur some GST on their inputs. The FWCP can be responsible for the net amount of GST *after* the organization's rebate percentage (i.e., if you get a rebate of 75% of your GST, FWCP can cover the remaining 25%). The remaining GST needs to be entered as part of the project cost and within the line items.
 - b) Consultants and registered businesses (which don't receive a GST rebate) would be expected to incur GST and claim a full input tax credit on their inputs. The estimated GST that would apply to the total FWCP contribution needs to be split out from the project cost and line items and entered in the GST section of the budget along with the organization's GST number.
 - c) If you don't have a GST number or prefer to use FWCP funding to pay for the GST portion of your project, estimate the cost(s) with GST and enter it as part of the project cost and within the line items.
- Travel expenses (meals and mileage) need to align with accepted standardized rates:
 - Per diem meal rates: breakfast = \$20; lunch = \$22; dinner = \$34
 - Mileage:
 - 2x4 rate = \$0.72/km for first 5,000 km and \$0.66/km after
 - 4x4 rate (when mode required) = \$1.00/km for first 5,000 km and \$0.66/km after
- Total FWCP contribution towards administration costs (telephone charges, photocopies, printing, mailing/courier, etc.) is not to exceed 5% of the total FWCP contribution for project expenses for government and 10% for non-government. Administration costs should not be specified for consultants whose rates normally include administration costs.
- The total project cost includes funding from all sources, including, but not limited to, the FWCP, other funders (if any), the total value of all in-kind contributions (if any), and applicable taxes.
- For the additional revenue section, volunteer contributions should be expressed as \$250/day for skilled labour and \$100/day for unskilled labour for a standard day of eight hours. In-kind contributions for professionals should use standard charge-out rates.

Proposals

A six-page (maximum) project proposal is required for all annual grant applications.

Optional letters of support

Letters of support for your project are optional in our Columbia Region, but they can be used to strengthen your grant application. If you choose to submit letters of support along with your grant application, please ensure the letter authors clearly indicate their support for your proposed project and specify their involvement (i.e., actively involved, engaged in project planning and/or delivery, providing in-kind and/or

cash support, or supporting the project in principle). A letter of support should come from an organization, First Nation, or government agency, and it should demonstrate how the support is relevant to your project.

Experience

Project contact experience: It is mandatory to include the experience and credentials of the project contact. We encourage you to provide the credentials and experience of **key** team members so we can properly evaluate your grant application. Please note, if your proposed project activities involve 'reserved practice' according to the [Professional Governance Act](#), make sure you have team members with the appropriate credentials to perform or oversee the work.

HOW ARE GRANT APPLICATIONS EVALUATED?

We evaluate grant applications for:

- A clear and well-defined approach that aligns with the priority action, as stated in the relevant action plan(s).
- A strong linkage between the proposed project and the intended outcome(s) as stated in the relevant action plan(s). Are there clear objectives that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound?
- Technical design: Are the methods and approaches for the proposed project acceptable and appropriate? Are there direct benefits to fish and/or wildlife?
- Urgency: What are the implications if the proposed project is approved, or is not approved?
- Engagement with and involvement of First Nations in the grant application/proposed project. First Nations engagement is part of the review and evaluation of all grant applications. We recognize engagement may not necessarily result in First Nations involvement, but you will be required to document your engagement efforts in your grant application and provide a rationale why you may not have First Nations involvement in your proposed project.
- Describe how your project will engage with the community. Costs may be included in the project budget.
- Partnerships: The FWCP values partnerships and encourages all grant applicants to identify and involve project partners and/or funding partners to leverage FWCP funds.
- Budget: Are the charges for fees (including charge out rates) and expenses appropriate and reasonable? Is there a demonstrated good value for the money?
- Relevant credentials and experience of the team members, and roles of individuals on the project: Does the project team have the skills, expertise, and capacity to carry out the project? Are the right people in the right roles?
- Overall quality of the grant application: Is it a clear, easily understood grant application with strong linkages to the priority action(s) and intended outcome(s)?