



Message from our board chairs

Welcome to our 2024-2025 annual report for the FWCP's Coastal Region. This was the year our board approved approximately \$1.77 million for 28 fish and wildlife projects, which have now been completed, or in the case of multi-year projects, are ongoing.

Projects: The projects we fund across the 14 watersheds that make up our Coastal Region aim to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by reservoirs resulting from construction of BC Hydro dams. The projects also serve as a reminder of BC Hydro's fulfillment of its voluntary commitments to address impacts through its annual funding to the FWCP and the projects we fund.

During this fiscal year, we continued to fund important projects aimed at restoring estuaries, enhancing fish passage primarily for salmonids, improving connectivity, and restoring spawning habitat. We also funded projects to support endangered marmots, whitebark pine, bats, at-risk western painted turtles, and many other species.

Read the project list at the end of this report to learn more about the projects approved by our board. Be sure to read our 2024-2025 project outcomes report to learn more about the results and how these and other projects are making a difference for fish and wildlife.

Sharing project results and recommendations is important to us because it demonstrates the ways we're working towards our vision of thriving fish and wildlife populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable. Complete lists of available reports for all three FWCP regions are on our [results page](#).

Audit update: We continued to implement recommendations from our 2019 independent [evaluation and financial audit](#) this year, including the submission of a completion report. See page 4 for an overview.

We completed a logic model—as recommended in the audit—to guide our strategic approach to funding projects and track our progress through a performance measurement strategy. Both of these initiatives provide a framework for a new and more flexible approach to funding projects and enable tracking of performance metrics that relate back to our mandate. These will get underway in 2025-2026.

Board news: This year, we welcomed Mark Sherrington as the Coastal Region manager. Mark joined the FWCP in fall 2024 and took over the role from the acting manager, Shesley Callison-Hanna. Big thanks to Shesley for supporting the Coastal Region.

And a big thank you to Glen Cartwright, who stepped down from the board this year. We couldn't do the work we do without the guidance of our board. This year, our Coastal Region board met in Campbell River to see projects approved by our board, including work to restore the Campbell River estuary using Indigenous techniques.

Ryan joined me as a co-chair, and we both look forward to supporting the FWCP as best we can to benefit fish and wildlife in the region.



Larry Casper
Coastal Region
Board Co-chair



Ryan Stewart
Coastal Region
Board Co-chair



Annual reports are also available for our Columbia and Peace regions at fwcp.ca.

Cover: Our Coastal Region board has been providing annual funding to the Puntledge River Hatchery for many years to support summer Chinook production. [COA-F25-F-PUN-DFO-1](#). Photo: Ian Routley

1. Overview

FWCP COASTAL REGION

The FWCP's Coastal Region was established in 1999 as a voluntary initiative by BC Hydro in response to First Nations and stakeholder interests in addressing the impacts of BC Hydro dams.

It includes 14 watersheds on Vancouver Island, in the Lower Mainland, the Central and Sunshine Coasts, and watersheds in the Southern Interior (e.g., Bridge-Seton and Shuswap River watersheds) where BC Hydro dams are located.

The Coastal Region has received more than \$50 million since it started, and funds approximately 30 projects each year. The Coastal Region is shown below in Figure 1.1

Compensating for dam impacts

BC Hydro has water licence obligations in the Columbia and Peace regions and has made voluntary commitments to address the impacts of dams in the Coastal Region. BC Hydro fulfills the applicable obligations through the work of the FWCP.

With annual funding from BC Hydro, the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) conserves and enhances fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by 31 BC Hydro dams. The FWCP directs those funds toward priority actions across its three regions: Coastal, Columbia, and Peace.

The FWCP is governed through a framework that recognizes the regulatory accountabilities of agency partners (i.e., BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., and Fisheries & Oceans Canada: DFO). The framework also ensures public and Indigenous participation in decision-making, project planning and delivery. Independent regional boards review, evaluate, and approve funding for all projects. Our boards include representatives from each of our FWCP partners: BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., First Nations, and public stakeholders. The Coastal Region board for F25 is shown in Appendix B. When it comes to decision-making, input from each board member is given equal consideration through collaborative discussion.

Learn more at fwcp.ca/our-story.

Since 1988, BC Hydro has provided more than \$230 million to the FWCP to compensate for dam impacts, and the FWCP has funded more than 2,500 projects across our three regions.

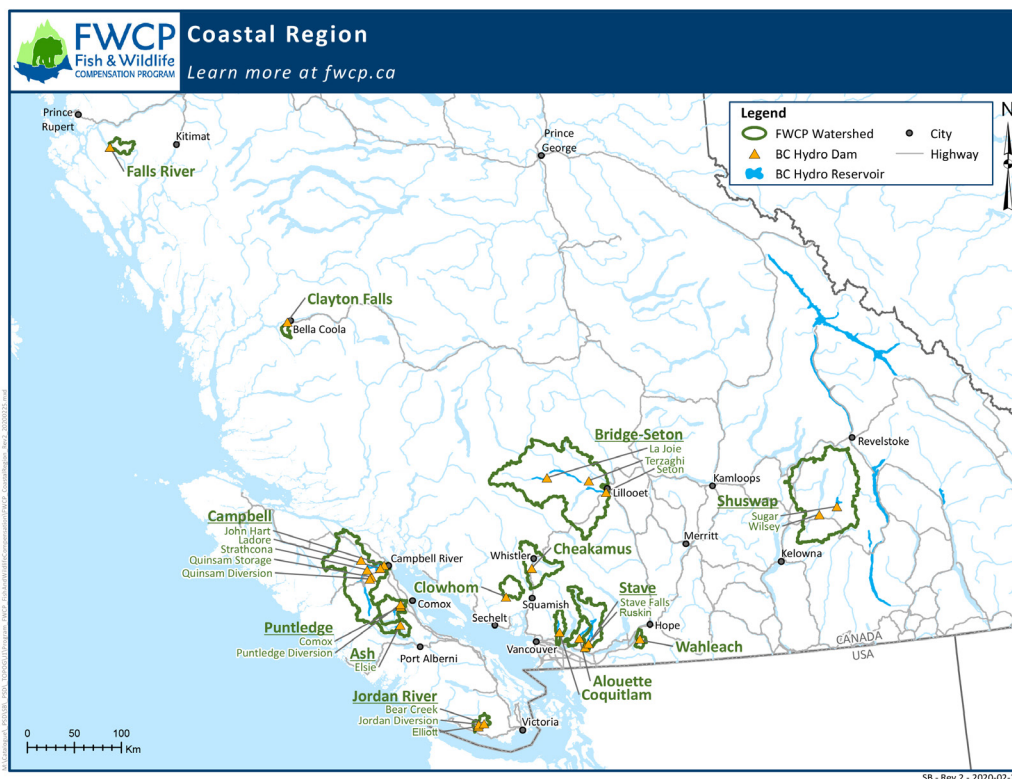


Figure 1.1: Map of the FWCP's Coastal Region

2. Our strategic approach

VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is for thriving fish and wildlife populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable. Our mission is to compensate for fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

We take a forward-looking, ecosystem-based approach that defines the desired outcomes and takes actions to restore, enhance, and conserve priority species and their habitats, in alignment with our strategic framework, as in Figure 2.1, below. More details on our three strategic objectives can be found in the [Governance Manual](#).

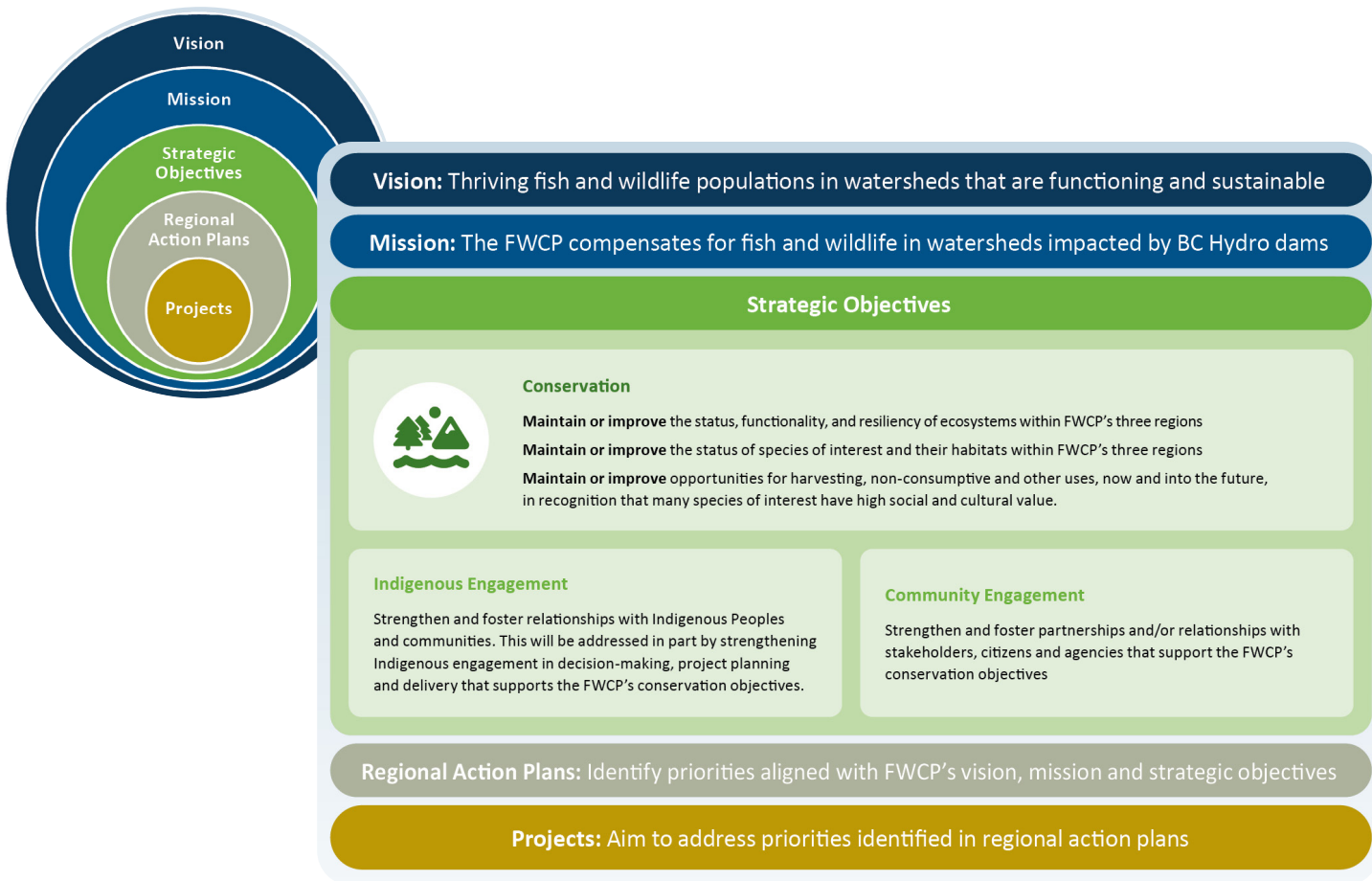


Figure 2.1: Strategic framework. The projects we fund align with our regional action plans, reflect our strategic objectives, and align in with our mission and vision

ACTION PLANS

Our action plans guide FWCP investments in fish and wildlife projects. They are referenced annually by our regional boards to track progress toward implementation, set priorities, and guide decision-making in setting out and approving the annual operating plan for each region. Actions in our action plans are eligible for FWCP funding and align with our vision, mission, and geographic scope.

In our Coastal Region, we have 14 watershed-based [action plans](#), and all F25 projects approved for funding by our Coastal Region board align with the priority actions identified in the Coastal Region action plans.

UPDATE: EVALUATION AND FINANCIAL AUDIT

In 2019, an independent third-party evaluation and financial audit, as required by our Governance Manual, was completed. The auditor made nine recommendations to refine, support, and strengthen our approach to conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. Since 2019, the FWCP team has been methodically working on the recommendations, and many of them have been completed or nearing completion. See [website](#) for more details.

3. Financial report

APPROVED BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Our Coastal Region board allocates annual funding toward fish and wildlife projects, land securement, First Nations engagement, and other activities as outlined below. These allocations form the annual operating plan. Any unallocated funds are carried forward as uncommitted available funds for future spending.

The annual voluntary funding provided by BC Hydro to the region for the year was \$2,567,100. Our board approved a budget of \$2,875,298, utilizing unspent surplus funds from previous years.

Figure 3.1 shows a total of approximately \$4.6 million available to our Coastal Region as of April 1, 2024. This comprises the approved budget of approximately \$2.88 million, the uncommitted available funds of approximately \$65,000, and the remaining prior-year funding commitments from F24 to F20 of approximately \$1.66 million, as shown below.

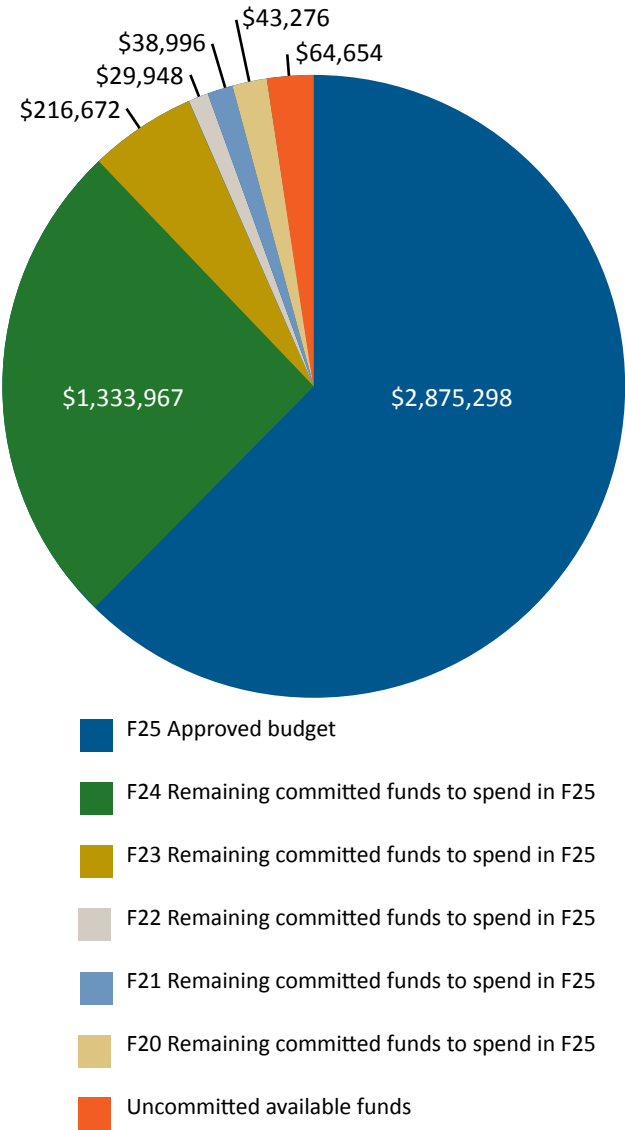


Figure 3.1: FWCP Coastal Region financial summary on April 1, 2024

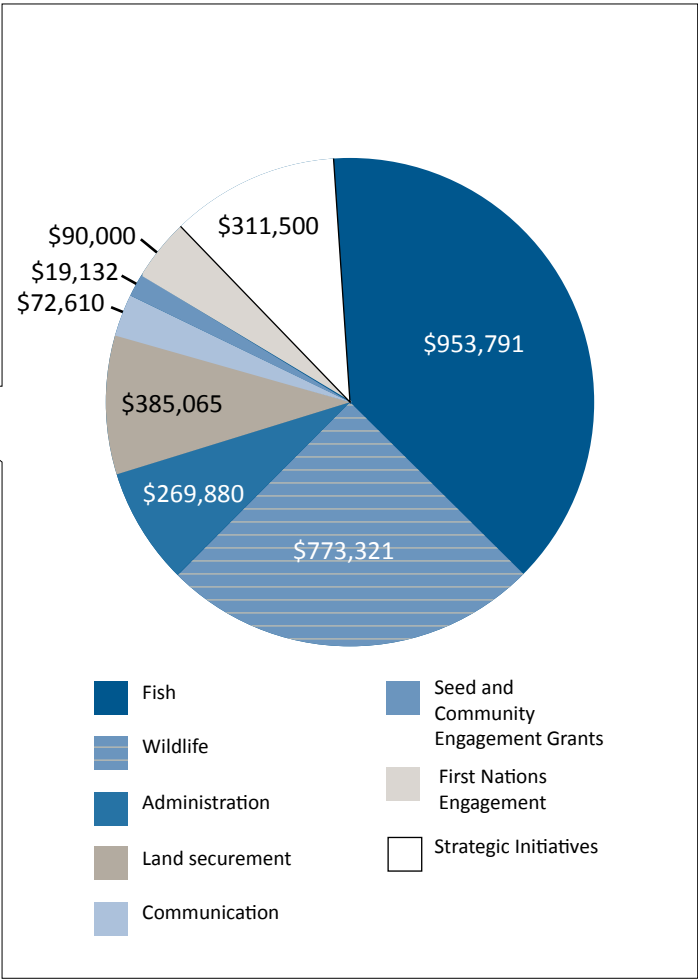


Figure 3.2: Allocation of the approved Coastal Region budget of \$2,875,298 as of April 1, 2024

Figure 3.2 illustrates the approved budget for F25 as of April 1, 2024. Funding for fish projects accounted for 32% of the budget, wildlife projects 30%, and land securement 13%. Strategic initiatives, primarily comprising funding allocated to updating Coastal Region Action Plans, accounted for nearly 11%, while administrative costs were approximately 9% of the budget. For a full breakdown, see Figure 3.2.

Coastal Region expenditures up to the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2025) are shown in Table 3.1. This reflects a snapshot of actual and planned payments made related to this year's finances. Funding allocated each year may not be fully expended by year-end, and as shown in Table 3.1, F25 funds not yet expended by March 31, 2025, are labelled as planned payments.

Occasionally, projects come in under budget (unspent funds in Table 3.1). Funds not spent during the fiscal year will be carried forward as unspent surplus budget and made available for new spending in future fiscal years. Funds identified as land securement are approved for a reserve fund that, if remain unspent, are carried forward and made available for future land securement proposals.

Table 3.1: F25 budget status as of March 31, 2025

Fund category	F25 approved budget	Paid up to March 31, 2025	Remaining	Unspent Funds ¹	Planned Payments ²
Fish	\$953,791	\$453,076	\$500,715	-\$39,432	\$540,150
Wildlife	\$773,321	\$321,632	\$451,689	-\$1,250	\$452,939
Administration	\$269,880	\$243,808	\$26,072	\$19,433	\$6,629
Land securement	\$385,065	\$366,079 ³	\$18,986	\$0	\$18,986
Communications	\$72,610	\$66,252	\$6,357	-\$942	\$7,298
Seed and Community Engagement Grants	\$19,132	\$10,000	\$9,132	\$4,236	\$4,896
First Nations Engagement	\$90,000	\$3,955	\$86,045	\$0	\$86,045
Strategic Initiatives	\$311,500	\$44,263	\$267,327	\$5,085	\$262,153
TOTAL	\$2,875,298	\$1,509,066	\$1,366,233	-\$12,864	\$1,379,096

Note 1: Unspent funds are carried forward and available for the next fiscal year. In the instance of a negative amount, the money was taken from previously uncommitted funds and added to the line item, making them committed and increasing the expected spend/planned payment. If the number is positive, it means that the money is released from this line item and returned to uncommitted funds.

Note 2: Planned payments represent expected invoices for approved ongoing projects that have not yet submitted final reports by March 31, 2025.

Note 3: These \$s from the land securement reserve fund were approved during F25 for an F26 project, that will be reported on in our F26 Annual Report.

At the end of this reporting period, approximately \$1.51 million of the annual budget had been spent, and approximately \$1.38 million¹ remained as an F25 commitment to spend in F26.

In addition to the planned payments of \$1.38 million, the balance of prior-year funding commitments anticipated to be spent in F26 was approximately \$342,000 from F24, \$51,000 from F23, with more than \$197,000 available in uncommitted funds (Figure 3.3).

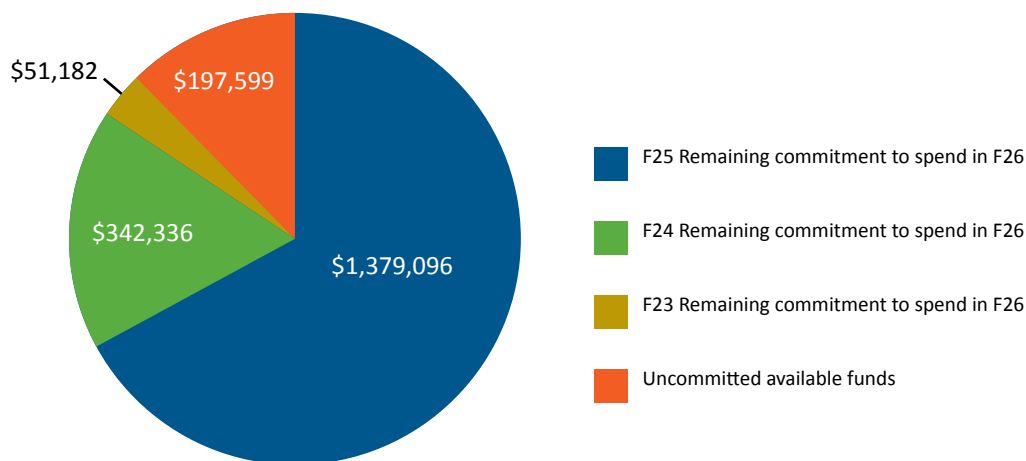


Figure 3.3: Financial summary of the FWCP's Coastal Region, as of March 31, 2025 (end of fiscal year)

1. The end of fiscal F25 and the year-end deadline for project reporting are on the same day. Therefore, reports (and potentially statements of accounts) are not reviewed and accepted until after the March 31 deadline, causing them to be associated with the next fiscal (F26). Many final payments for F25 projects are processed in the first few months of F26, and unspent funds are allocated for future spending.

4. Project funding and grants

PROVINCIAL PROJECT FUNDING

This year, our three regional boards approved 95 projects for a total FWCP contribution of approximately \$10.4 million. The total value of these projects, including leveraged funding from other organizations and in-kind resources, was \$23.7 million.

Final reports for all FWCP-funded projects are uploaded to [Ecocat](#) or [SIWE](#) provincial databases, and searchable spreadsheets of reports for each FWCP region are available at [fwcp.ca/results](#).

Coastal Region project delivery

In our Coastal Region, the FWCP funds the delivery of fish and wildlife projects in a variety of ways, including grant applications and directed projects. Twenty-eight projects were approved this year, for \$1,770,533 in funding from our Coastal Region board.

Grant-based projects

The FWCP’s annual grant intake opens each August and closes in late October. All grant applications go through a three-stage review process. For more details, visit our FAQs. Grant applicants are required to develop a project idea that aligns with one or more priority actions in any action plan and will achieve the intended outcome.

Of the 28 projects approved for the year, 22 were grant-based; nine fish and 13 wildlife, for a total of \$1,703,297. Funding allocation was 56% (\$995,866) for fish projects and 44% (\$774,667) for wildlife.

The FWCP encourages grant applicants to seek additional funding sources (e.g., other funding agencies and in-kind contributions) to leverage FWCP funding contributions. We recognize the value of partnerships in helping to plan, deliver, and fund projects, and we encourage grant applicants to build funding and project partnerships into their projects. In F25, as stated, the FWCP funding allocation for grant-based projects was approximately \$1.7 million. As a result of financial partnerships and in-kind contributions, the total value of the

projects was just over \$5 million. In other words, for every \$1 invested by the FWCP, others contributed nearly \$2, greatly increasing the value of the FWCP’s investment overall.

Directed projects

Directed projects provide our Coastal Region board the opportunity to direct funds to regional priorities with a specific scope of work issued through procurement processes (e.g., direct award or request for proposal). The Coastal Region board may also choose to allocate funds to regional priorities as directed projects or reserved funds.

Approximately \$223,000 was approved for six directed projects, excluding funds allocated for land securement. The six directed projects included hatchery operations, the distribution of chum salmon carcasses in the Puntledge River Watershed, and improvement of fish passage in the Coquitlam and Alouette River watersheds.

Figure 4.1 shows the split between direct project funding and grant-based project funding.

Land securement

As part of directed projects, the Coastal Region board sets aside approximately 15% of its annual funding to a land securement reserve fund. In F25, the board allocated \$385,065 toward the reserve fund. While no F25 land securement project was approved, the board approved approximately \$366,000 to be allocated toward an F26 land securement project. This will be reported on in our F26 annual report.

For more information about our land securement grant, visit <https://fwcp.ca/funding/land-securement.html>

Approved projects by proponent type

The FWCP Coastal Region board approved funding for a total of 28 projects: six directed projects and 22 grant-based projects. More than 60% of the approved funding went toward projects led by non-government organizations, and more than one quarter went to First Nations—a 1,500% increase over F24. See Figure 4.2 for a breakdown of approved projects by proponent type.

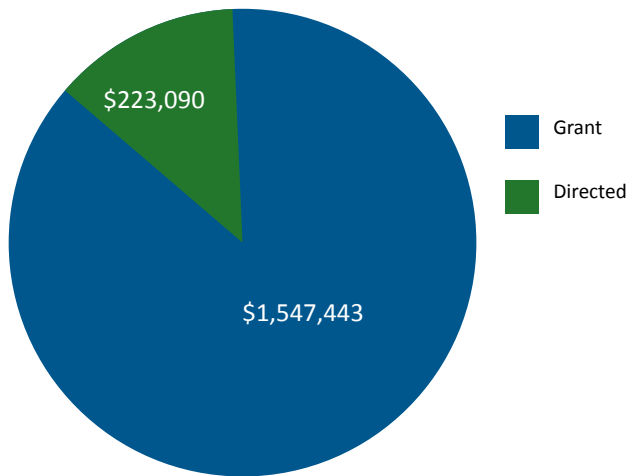


Figure: 4.1 F25 directed project funding vs grant-based project funding

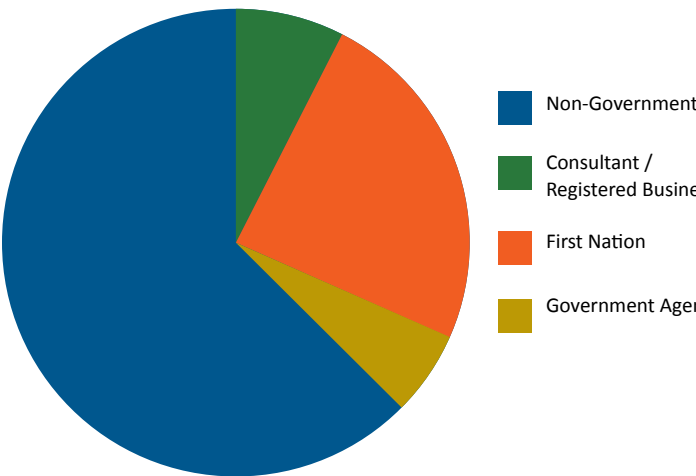


Figure 4.2: Coastal F25 approved projects by lead proponent type

Approved projects by action type

Priority actions in our Coastal Region [action plans](#) are grouped into five broad action types:

1. research and information acquisition
2. habitat-based
3. species-based
4. monitoring and evaluation
5. land securement.

This year, nearly 70% of the approved funding was allocated toward habitat-based projects, and just over 16% on species-based projects. Figure 4.3 shows the allocation of approved funding by action type.

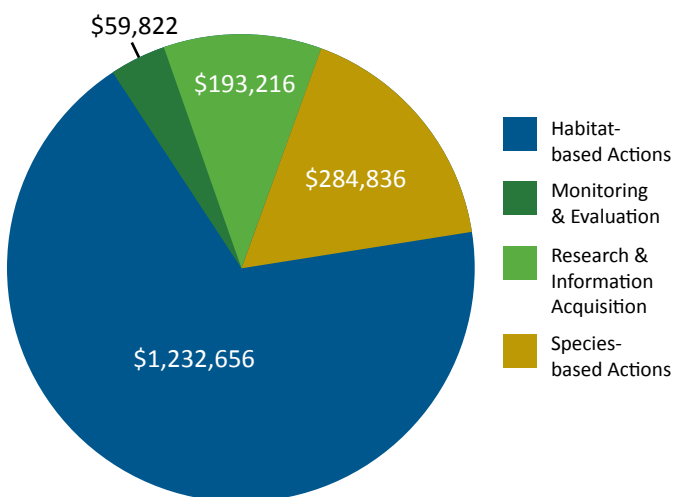


Figure 4.3: Breakdown of approved funding by action type

Projects approved by watershed

The approved projects were distributed across our watersheds where we operate, as shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Projects approved by watershed*

By Watershed	Number of projects	FWCP \$s
Alouette	1	\$48,428
Bridge-Seton	3	\$326,318
Campbell	4	\$180,997
Cheakamus	2	\$96,646
Clowhom	1	\$19,000
Coquitlam-Buntzen	3	\$421,611
Falls River	2	\$8,156
Puntledge	4	\$228,055
Shuswap	2	\$60,548
Multiple	5	\$370,775
	28	TOTAL \$1,770,533

*The table does not include money set aside for the land securement or Community Engagement Grants.

Community Engagement Grant projects

The goal of the [Community Engagement Grant](#) is to provide small grants of up to \$1,500 to support activities that align with our strategic objectives. Groups can apply for a FWCP Community Engagement Grant at any time during the year, while funds are available.

A total annual budget of \$10,000 was set aside for Community Engagement Grant funding. Ten applications were received, and eight were approved. The full list of approved Community Engagement Grants is shown in Table 4.2

Table 4.2: F25 Columbia Region Community Engagement Grants

Organization	Project	FWCP \$s	Watershed
BC Conservation Foundation	Cayoose Creek Indian Band Community Open House	\$1,500	Bridge-Seton
Hoy Scott Watershed Society	Salmon Leave Home Community Education Event	\$1,000	Coquitlam
The Adams River Salmon Society	Bat Roosting Site Replacement and Enhancement	\$1,000	Shuswap
Resilient Waters	Salmon Day 2024	\$1,500	Coquitlam
Greenways Land Trust	Wetlandkeeper Course	\$1,500	Campbell
City of Coquitlam	Salmon Come Home Outreach Event	\$1,000	Coquitlam
Redd Fish Restoration Society	Watershed Forum	\$1,000	Multiple
Xwisten (Bridge River Indian Band)	Xwisten Ancestral Food System Revitalization Program	\$1,500	Bridge-Seton
		TOTAL \$10,000	

Appendix A: F25 Coastal Region projects

The table below provides a list of 2024–2025 Coastal Region fish and wildlife projects approved for funding. The funding identified may vary from the approved budget as of April 1, 2024, due to project budget changes that occurred throughout the fiscal year. Final reports for all projects are posted to the appropriate provincial databases once available. Visit fwcp.ca/results for an updated list of all available final reports. Executive summaries and links to the final reports can also be viewed by clicking on the project numbers. Learn more about the 2024-2025 project outcomes at fwcp.ca/annual-reports.

FWCP Project ID	Project Title	Proponent	FWCP \$s
Fish: Grant-based			
COA-F25-F-4099	Cheakamus Centre River Intake Maintenance	Cheakamus Foundation for Environmental Learning	\$91,745
COA-F25-F-4102	Reeve Slough Salmon Habitat Reconnection Project 2024	Kwikwetlem First Nation	\$328,000
COA-F25-F-4107	Restoration Following the Re-Watering of Little Bear Slough	The Nature Trust of British Columbia	\$4,901
COA-F25-F-4093	Kus-kus-sum: Unpaving Paradise: Year 4	Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	\$203,900
COA-F25-F-4111	Bessette Creek Streamflow Monitoring: Year 2	Okanagan Nation Alliance	\$44,548
COA-F25-F-4100	Upper Campbell River Bulk Gravel - Design and permitting	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	\$85,716
COA-F25-F-4074	Conservation of Shuswap River Chinook through Education	Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society	\$16,000
COA-F25-F-4103	Coquitlam River Floodgates and Fish Passage: Year 4	MakeWay Charitable Society	\$74,611
COA-F25-F-4086	Alouette Watershed Community Connections Project	Alouette River Management Society	\$17,287
Wildlife: Grant-based			
COA-F25-W-4187	Falls River Feasibility & Action Plan Development	Wai Wah Environmental Limited Partnership	\$4,896
COA-F25-W-4094	Whitebark Pine Recovery: Building Community Capacity	Moody Tree	\$61,600
COA-F25-W-4087	Translocating Vancouver Is. Marmots to Strathcona Park 2024	Marmot Recovery Foundation	\$16,790
COA-F25-W-4089	Restoring Ecological Function in the Campbell River Estuary	Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust	\$30,458
COA-F25-W-4088	Supporting Indigenous Leadership in Bat Monitoring	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	\$92,194
COA-F25-W-4082	Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Breeding Program	British Columbia Conservation Foundation	\$172,525
COA-F25-W-4084	Western Painted Turtle Recovery in Coastal Watersheds	Athene Ecological	\$140,000
COA-F25-W-4091	Conserving Bat Roosting Habitat in Clowhom Watershed: Year 2	Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project	\$19,000
COA-F25-W-4098	Bat WNS in SW BC: Disease Mitigation & Monitoring of Impacts	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	\$70,273
COA-F25-W-4096	Puntledge Western Painted Turtle Recovery Program	Current Environmental Ltd	\$4,960
COA-F25-W-4080	Western Screech-owl Conservation and Stewardship	Madrone Environmental Services Ltd.	\$15,000
COA-F25-W-4083	Engagement of First Nations in Black Swift Conservation	Birds Canada	\$49,780
COA-F25-W-4106	Bats in Falls River watershed: Inventory & Habitat Analysis	Red-tail Environmental Inc.	\$3,260
Fish: Directed			
COA-F25-F-4152-DCA	Campbell River Gravel Post-Storm Assessment - 2024	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	\$59,822
COA-F25-F-4117-DCA	Upper Puntledge River Watershed Chum Carcass Distribution: Year 5	Courtenay and District Fish & Game Protective Association	\$2,100
COA-F25-F-4142-DCA	Alouette Watershed Sockeye-Fish Passage Feasibility: Year 8	Alouette River Management Society	\$31,141
NA-DCA	F25 Annual Puntledge Hatchery Contribution	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	\$17,095
NA-DCA	F25 Annual Fish passage for Coquitlam Watershed Contribution	Kwikwetlem First Nation	\$19,000
Wildlife: Directed			
COA-F25-W-4140-DCA	FWCP Watershed Assessment Tool Development: Phase 5	Ministry of Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship	\$93,931

TOTAL \$1,770,533

Appendix B: Coastal Region board, committees, and staff

BOARD

The board guides our work and is responsible for approving our projects and budget in the Coastal Region. In addition to funding projects through our annual grants, the board may choose to direct projects.

Ryan Stewart , Co-chair	BC Hydro
Dale Desrochers/Scott Northrup	DFO
Mark Peters	Peters First Nation
Scott Barrett	Province of B.C.
Glen Cartwright	Public
Laurie Kremsater	Public
Ian Routley	Public
Larry Casper , Co-chair	Tsal'alh
Brian Assu	We Wai Kai Nation

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The board is supported by four fish and wildlife technical committees. They act in an advisory role by providing technical reviews, evaluations, ranking of fish and wildlife grant applications, supporting the development of strategic plans, assisting in the development and oversight of directed projects, and providing advice on the effective implementation of action plans.

Lower Mainland—North Coast Fish Technical Committee

Katy Jay	BC Hydro
Murray Manson , Chair	DFO
Vacant	First Nation
Chris Hegele	Province of B.C.
Dana Atagi	Public

Southern Interior Fish Technical Committee

Jacqueline Chapman	BC Hydro
Collin McGregor , Chair	DFO
Elinor McGrath	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Vacant	Province of B.C.
Dr. Brian Heise	Public

Vancouver Island Fish Technical Committee

Eva Wichmann , Chair	BC Hydro
Scott Northrup/ Jenna Sutherst	DFO
Jim Lane	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
Mike McCulloch	Province of B.C.
David DePape	Public

Wildlife Technical Committee

Vacant	First Nation
Fraser Corbould/Chris Beers	BC Hydro
Catherine Denny	Province of B.C.
Paul Chytk	Public

STEERING COMMITTEE

The steering committee (formerly the policy committee), sets the FWCP's overall direction, including the governance structure and strategic framework. It also oversees periodic evaluations, approves significant changes to the FWCP, and addresses dispute resolution, when necessary, in addition to other responsibilities beyond the FWCP. For more details, refer to our governance manual.

Karen Popoff, Chair
Director, Environment, BC Hydro

Jasmine Pouce Coupe
Doig River First Nation (Peace Region)

Alice Cheung
Director, PSSS Secretariat, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mark Peters
Peters First Nations (Coastal Region)

James Mack
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Mark Thomas
Shuswap Band (Columbia Region)

FWCP TEAM

FWCP Columbia Region management and operations were implemented by our acting Coastal Region Manager, Shesley Callison-Hanna, and then by our Coastal Region Manager, Mark Sherrington. During this fiscal year, they were supported by FWCP Program Manager, Margo Sadler, and Environmental Project Coordinator, Melissa Fiel de Sousa/Sharon Johnson/Soo Lee. Shesley was also the Indigenous and Environmental Initiatives Coordinator. Communications and community engagement for all three FWCP regions were led by Lynne Betts and Angus Glass.