



PUBLIC PRESENTATION



**Wednesday,
Nov4th, 2026**

**12:00 - 1:00
p.m.**

(Rm 8-166)

Please register if
you plan to attend
online:



Modeling Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin

*Guest Presenter: Bryce O'Connor,
Independent fisheries biologist*

Presentation Summary:

Thermal habitat availability has been identified as a limiting factor for Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Arctic Grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) in the Williston Reservoir Watershed. In a century dominated by climate change, the implications of increased magnitude and variability in water temperatures are of great concern for species fragmented in isolated watersheds and migratory species which depend on disparate habitats. Conservation status assessments of endemic species in the Upper Peace River Basin require a contemporary approach to monitoring and modeling freshwater thermal habitat availability. To this end, we investigated patterns in water temperature data and their drivers across a range of temporal and spatial scales. By utilizing innovative field techniques, leveraging existing monitoring data, and integrating satellite remote sensing archives into a water temperature modelling framework this project will improve the understanding of thermal habitat availability within the Upper Peace River Basin. The project results have been integrated into ongoing limiting factors analysis which utilize cumulative effects models to direct conservation and enhancement planning by the Peace Region BC Hydro FWCP.

Bryce is an independent fisheries biologist and UNBC alumni who has worked closely with Tsay Keh Dene owned Chu Cho Environmental and UNBC researchers on cold-water adapted fish populations in the upper Peace River. His work has focused on addressing data gaps for Arctic Grayling and Bull Trout and contributing to strategic planning for enhancement and conservation efforts. For the thermal regimes project, Bryce and Chu Cho Environmental partnered with Dr. Alex Bevington and Dr. Siraj ul Islam.

All are welcome to participate. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration via the link to the left is required to participate online. The Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute at the University of Northern British Columbia, together with its partners, invite those with interest in learning more about this topic to participate in this presentation and discussion in-person or online.

This event is funded by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP). The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, Public Stakeholders, and the Province of BC, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by existing BC Hydro dams.



Guests are invited to a reception with light refreshments and posters featuring FWCP- funded research immediately following the talk

