

Columbia Region News February 2022



Who you lookin' at? This bald eagle was caught on a trail cam at the Murphy Creek spawning channel. Join us for an online session on March 4, about the channel, the partnership moving it forward, and the rich diversity of wildlife it attracts. Photo: Trail Wildlife Association

You're invited: join our information sessions!

<u>Register now</u> for any of our upcoming online information sessions to hear updates and results about FWCP-funded projects and some of the people leading these important projects.



Conserving and improving understanding of bats across B.C.

Friday, February 11, noon - 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MT Join conservation biologist Dr. Cori Lausen and a team of bat specialists from across B.C. for updates on their research on bats and results of FWCP-funded projects. Topics include using probiotics, installing artificial tree bark for roosting habitat, confirming a new species on Vancouver Island, and exploring winter caves in the Peace Region. Learn more and register. Photo: C. Lausen



Return of the Vancouver Island marmot

Friday, February 25, noon - 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MT
Less than two decades ago, Vancouver Island marmots teetered on the brink of extinction. Thanks to ongoing conservation efforts, the Marmot Recovery Foundation has re-introduced marmots to many of their historic habitats. Join director Adam Taylor to learn about the recovery efforts. Learn more and register. Photo: A. Taylor



Murphy Creek Spawning Channel: partnering to support trout

Friday, March 4, noon - 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MT Take a virtual tour of the Murphy Creek spawning channel, near Trail, that provides essential habitat for rainbow trout and other species. It's managed through a partnership between the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Trail Wildlife Association, and the FWCP, and could be model for improving spawning habitat in the region. Learn more and register. Photo: iStock/M. Haring



Salmon and climate change: stressors, science, and stewardship

Thursday, March 10, noon - 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MT
Climate change and multiple other stressors are key threats to biodiversity
and ecosystem health. Salmon watersheds and fisheries are struggling.
Professor Dr. Jonathan Moore will talk about glacier retreats, sea level rises,
the function of estuaries, and the importance of forward-looking science in
this era of rapid change. Learn more and register. Photo: Salmon Watershed Labs



Life on the edge: update on Stone's sheep in the Peace Region

Wednesday, March 30, noon - 1 p.m. PT / 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. MT The Wild Sheep Society of B.C. will provide an update on an ongoing project that is assessing sheep health, and examining population demographics, behaviour, distribution, and habitat in the Peace Region. Results from the multi-year project could inform future conservation and enhancement actions for Stone's sheep. Learn more and register. Photo: iStock/C. Schug



Winter webinar series: building restoration & enhancement projects that make a difference

Wednesdays throughout February, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. PT / 11 a.m. - noon MT The FWCP is supporting a series of webinars, hosted by the Columbia Basin Trust and the Kootenay Conservation Program, for anyone planning restoration projects. This is a four-part series offering hands-on, practical solutions to build resilience into your ecosystem restoration and enhancement projects. Learn more and register.

Update: final review of grant applications underway

Thanks to everyone who submitted a grant application last October. We received 98 grant applications from across our three regions with 47 of those from the Columbia Region: 38 wildlife applications and nine fish. Our three-step review of all grant applications is wrapping up. Our Columbia Region board members are finalizing decisions about projects approved for funding starting April 1, 2022.

Our regional boards held virtual meetings again this year to review grant applications and approve funding for 2022-2023 projects with help from our acting business coordinator Melissa Fiel de Sousa.



If you applied for a grant, you can expect to find out by March if your project was approved. Be prepared: read our <u>information kit on next steps for approved applicants in 2022-2023</u> for details about mandatory requirements, progress reports, and payments.

Apply today: Community Engagement Grants available!

We're looking for stewardship groups and others who need up to \$1,000 to benefit fish and wildlife. Apply today for a <u>Community Engagement Grant</u> to support your project. The application is short, easy to complete, and you'll get an answer quickly.



Wanted: photos of fish and wildlife

We're looking for photos and videos of fish and wildlife in any of our regions, especially images from a project with FWCP funding. If you've got photos to share, email us at fwcp@bchydro.com. Read our communications guide for suggestions about photos and videos. Thanks to Chris Gale of Wild North Photos for sharing this image.

Read our final reports and recommendations for next steps

Final reports from FWCP-funded projects, including many recommendations for next steps, are available on provincial databases so anyone can access the reports, results, and recommendations. Use our <u>searchable</u> spreadsheets to find what you're looking for. Contact us if you need help.



The FWCP is 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 BC Hydro dams.

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