

Peace Region News February 2022



Identifying and mapping caves (hibernacula) that bats use for overwintering in the FWCP's Peace Region is critical before white nose syndrome hits our province. Learn more during our online information session about bats. Photo: I.J. Hansen

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 meet 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 the results of FWCP-funded projects. Topics include using probiotics, installing artificial tree bark, confirming the presence of a new species on Vancouver Island, and exploring caves in winter in our 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 reintroduced marmots to many of their historic habitats. Join director Adam Taylor to learn about the recovery efforts. Learn more and register. Photo: A. Taylor



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

Update: final review of grant applications underway

Thanks to everyone who submitted a grant application last October. We received 27 grant applications from our Peace Region: 20 wildlife and seven fish. Our three-step review of all grant applications is wrapping up and our Peace Region board members are finalizing decisions about projects approved for funding starting April 1, 2022.

Our regional boards held virtual meetings again this year 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 requirements, progress reports, and payments.



Arctic grayling is a priority fish species for the FWCP in the Peace Region and understanding its distribution, migration patterns, and habitat-use is key to conserving this once-abundant species. Photo: J. Hagen

eDNA changing how fish biologists gather data on grayling

Imagine if a water sample from a river or stream could identify if there was a certain fish species within 1.5 kilometres upstream. Welcome to the world of environmental DNA (eDNA). An FWCP-funded project is using eDNA to determine the distribution of Arctic grayling in 30 streams, stretching for more than 600 kms, around the Williston Reservoir. Read the full story in the <u>Alaska Highway News</u> or watch a recorded presentation about this important project at <u>fwcp.ca</u> (see past events).

Apply today: Community Engagement Grants available!

We're looking for stewardship groups and others in our Peace Region 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 guickly.



Wanted: photos of fish and wildlife

We're looking for <u>photos and videos</u> 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 <u>fwcp@bchydro.com</u>. Read our <u>communications guide</u> for suggestions about photos and videos. Thanks to Chris Gale of Wild North Photos in our Peace Region 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. Anyone can access the reports, results, and recommendations. Use our <u>searchable</u> <u>spreadsheets</u> to find what you're looking for. <u>Contact us</u> 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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