

FWCP Columbia Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
1	COL-F25-F-3997	<p>Assessing feasibility of floating wetlands in the East Kootenay</p> <p><i>Joseph Creek Rehabilitation with Floating Treatment Wetland:</i> This Seed Grant project will assess the feasibility of constructing floating wetlands in Joseph Creek, near Cranbrook. Floating wetlands use plants and microorganisms to improve water quality, which can boost biodiversity and improve aesthetic and recreational values in the creek.</p> <p>The site is an important habitat for the recruitment of juvenile westslope cutthroat trout, a species of special concern.</p> <p>The ecological health of this creek has been highly impacted and this project builds on local restoration efforts.</p>	Blue Lake Forest Education Society	\$ 4,989	Research & Information Acquisition	East Kootenay
2	COL-F25-F-4032	<p>Assessing bull trout populations in the Salmo River Watershed</p> <p><i>Bull Trout Spawner Escapement in the Salmo River Watershed:</i> This project will conduct bull trout redd counts in known areas of the Salmo River in 2024. This is part of a long-term monitoring program for this at-risk species in the Salmo River Watershed that will provide important information about population trends.</p> <p>Since surveys began in 1998, the bull trout spawning population has been below 100 individuals in half of the 11 surveys conducted. Conservation requires 50–100 individuals per population to minimize inbreeding effects.</p>	Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society	\$ 14,730	Species-based Actions	West Kootenay
Grant-based Fish Project Total:				\$19,719 (2 projects)		

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#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
3	COL-F25-F-4141-DCA	<p>Ensuring the sustainability of Murphy Creek spawning channel</p> <p><i>F25 Murphy Creek Spawning Channel Monitoring and Maintenance, Year 2 of 3:</i> The Murphy Creek spawning channel provides quality spawning habitat for rainbow trout and supports the resident Columbia River population.</p> <p>Each year the spawners are monitored to provide data to evaluate run size and population dynamics. This project is delivered in partnership with the Trail Wildlife Association.</p>	Okanagan Nation Alliance	\$ 21,000	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay
Fish Directed Project Total:				\$21,000 (1 project)		

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#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
4	COL-F25-F-4122-DCA	<p>Supporting Meadow Creek spawning channel at Kootenay Lake</p> <p><i>F25 Meadow Creek Spawning Channel:</i> This project supports ongoing operations, maintenance, and monitoring at the Meadow Creek spawning channel. The channel provides spawning habitat for Kootenay Lake kokanee.</p> <p>BC Hydro built the spawning channel in 1967 to compensate for natural kokanee habitat lost due to the construction of Duncan Dam.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 289,790	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay
5	COL-F25-F-4124-DCA	<p>Adding nutrients to Arrow Lakes Reservoir</p> <p><i>F25 Arrow Lakes Reservoir Nutrient Restoration Program:</i> This ongoing restoration program addresses nutrient losses in Arrow Lakes Reservoir resulting from the construction of Hugh L. Keenleyside, Mica, and Revelstoke dams.</p> <p>In this bottom-up approach, the addition of nutrients—nitrogen and phosphorus in the form of liquid agricultural-grade fertilizer—from April to September supports phytoplankton populations that are suitable for the production of zooplankton, including daphnia, a main food source for kokanee.</p> <p>This project also includes monitoring of several trophic levels.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 954,902	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay

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6	COL-F25-F-4125-DCA	<p>Adding nutrients to the North Arm of Kootenay Lake</p> <p><i>F25 Kootenay Lake Nutrient Restoration Program–North Arm:</i> This ongoing restoration program addresses nutrient losses in Kootenay Lake resulting from the construction of Duncan Dam.</p> <p>In this bottom-up approach, the addition of nutrients—nitrogen and phosphorus in the form of liquid agricultural-grade fertilizer—from April to September supports phytoplankton populations that are suitable for the production of daphnia, a main food source for kokanee.</p> <p>This project also includes monitoring of several trophic levels as well as data analysis and reporting.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 1,209,873	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay
7	COL-F25-F-4126-DCA	<p>Supporting Hill Creek spawning channel on Arrow Lakes Reservoir</p> <p><i>F25 Hill Creek Spawning Channel:</i> This project supports ongoing operations, maintenance, and monitoring at the Hill Creek spawning channel. Monitoring includes kokanee fry emigration, rainbow trout redd counts and fry emergence, overwintering egg survival, water quality at the spawning channel, and adult kokanee size, fecundity, and escapement.</p> <p>The spawning channel was built by BC Hydro to compensate for spawning habitat lost due to the construction of Revelstoke Dam, and it now provides additional spawning habitat for kokanee and rainbow trout from Arrow Lakes Reservoir.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 295,700	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay
Fish Annual and Ongoing Project Total:				\$2,750,265 (4 projects)		

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8	COL-F25-W-3991	<p>Improving riparian function by removing invasives</p> <p><i>Kootenay Riparian Invasive Plant Control:</i> This multi-year project will support the development and implementation of a plan for removing invasive yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife along the West Arm of Kootenay Lake and the Kootenay River downstream of Brilliant Dam.</p> <p>This will improve riparian ecosystem function, protect high-value conservation areas, help improve high-value conservation areas, and increase awareness and long-term stewardship among local residents.</p>	Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society	\$ 53,722	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay
9	COL-F25-W-3993	<p>Simpcw First Nation assesses grizzly bears in North Columbia</p> <p><i>Simpcw Grizzly Bear Monitoring and Connectivity Study:</i> This Indigenous-led conservation initiative will assess grizzly bear (ském̓cis) populations in the Columbia-Shuswap and their connectivity with bears from other parts of Simpcw Territory (Simpcwúłecw).</p> <p>DNA analysis from hair samples, as well as habitat evaluations, will provide important insights into grizzly bear behaviour, population dynamics, and habitat use. This knowledge will inform Indigenous-led conservation and management strategies.</p>	Simpcw First Nation	\$ 51,257	Species-based Actions	North Columbia

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10	COL-F25-W-4009	<p>Enhancing ungulate habitat on Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi 'it Reserve</p> <p><i>Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi 'it Open Forest and Grassland Enhancement:</i> Open forest and grassland habitat on Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi 'it Reserve east of Cranbrook is highly valued for elk, mule, and white-tailed deer. In recent years the forage quality has declined due to forest encroachment and invasive plants.</p> <p>This five-year ecosystem management plan will restore ungulate habitat and improve critical habitat for at-risk Lewis's woodpecker and American badger. This year, work will focus on examining herbicide and prescribed burn treatment efficacy in degraded grasslands as well as the management of invasive plants within key open forest areas.</p>	Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi'it (Tobacco Plains Indian Band)	\$ 69,105	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay
11	COL-F25-W-4010	<p>Improving habitat for at-risk swallows</p> <p><i>Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project:</i> This multi-year project aims to conserve and enhance habitat for at-risk bank and barn swallows in the North Columbia and East Kootenay and conducts ongoing monitoring of natural colonies and enhanced sites.</p> <p>For barn swallows, artificial nesting structures and nest cups will be installed to compensate for nesting sites that have been removed (or will be removed soon). Nesting structures and nest cups will also be installed at existing sites to entice barn swallows by making them more attractive for breeding.</p> <p>Breeding habitat will be expanded for at-risk bank swallows. The project plans to install the first artificial bank swallow nesting structure in B.C.</p>	Wildsight Golden	\$ 21,026	Habitat-based Actions	North Columbia

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#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
12	COL-F25-W-4011	<p>Managing invasive species in Revelstoke Reach</p> <p><i>Revelstoke Reach Invasives:</i> The goal of this multi-year control project is to focus on high-priority invasive species management along the mouth of the Illecillewaet River near Revelstoke. This area has high value for migratory birds, western painted turtles, and other wildlife.</p> <p>This project will target invasives, including blueweed, Bohemian knotweed, Himalayan balsam and blackberry, hoary alyssum, and leafy spurge, which can reduce biodiversity, interfere with forest regeneration, and impact water quality.</p>	Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	\$ 8,714	Habitat-based Actions	North Columbia
13	COL-F25-W-4012	<p>Restoring cottonwood trees in the Elk Valley</p> <p><i>Elk Valley Cottonwood Restoration Program:</i> Cottonwood trees are an iconic species in the Elk Valley, but many stands have been lost to human activities and settlements.</p> <p>Through this project, cottonwood trees and native plants will be planted along 53 hectares of riparian floodplain and wetland habitat in the Elk Valley. When mature, the trees and plants will provide habitat for sensitive species (e.g., westslope cutthroat trout and grizzly bears), improve landscape connectivity, provide natural streambank erosion protection, and mitigate downstream flood impacts.</p>	Elk River Watershed Alliance	\$ 60,333	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay

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14	COL-F25-W-4016	<p>Stewarding conservation lands in the Columbia Region</p> <p><i>NTBC Land Stewardship Activities–Conservation Field Crew Program:</i> This project supports conservation field crews to do stewardship and operational projects each year on conservation properties in the East and West Kootenay to maintain and enhance biodiversity and wildlife values.</p> <p>This year, the project will continue to build on fostering closer collaboration with First Nations. Stewardship actions will focus on conservation properties acquired by Nature Trust with FWCP funding, including the Duncan-Lardeau Flats, Big Ranch, and the Hoodoos.</p>	The Nature Trust of British Columbia	\$ 39,100	Habitat-based Actions	Basin-wide
15	COL-F25-W-4018	<p>Understanding bat abundance and diversity in Columbia Region</p> <p><i>NABat, BatCaver, and Beyond: Protecting Columbia Basin Bats:</i> This multi-year project will use the North American Bat Monitoring (NABat) protocol to continue monitoring the diversity and relative abundance of bats and their overall condition in the FWCP’s Columbia Region.</p> <p>This year’s plan includes assessing roosting ecology, roost enhancement, and mitigation effectiveness. Results of this work will guide the implementation of mitigation efforts for threats such as White Nose Syndrome.</p> <p>These actions are essential components of the FWCP-sponsored BC Bat Action Plan.</p>	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	\$ 82,817	Species-based Actions	Basin-wide

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16	COL-F25-W-4028	<p>Improving ungulate habitat by addressing invasives in the Elk Valley</p> <p><i>Elk Valley Invasive Plant Management, Year 5:</i> The goal of this multi-year project is to minimize and contain the presence of invasive plant species on bighorn sheep and other ungulate range. This also complements ongoing habitat restoration work in the area through the East Kootenay Enhancement Project.</p> <p>The project will work with First Nations, land managers, and user groups to implement invasive plant control. Work planned for this year will focus on continuing to reduce invasive species across the landscape.</p>	East Kootenay Invasive Species Council	\$ 19,818	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay
17	COL-F25-W-4029	<p>Reducing invasive species spread in the East Kootenay</p> <p><i>Galton Range Invasive Plant Management:</i> The goal of this project is to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in high-value habitat and complement ongoing habitat restoration work in the area through the East Kootenay Enhancement Project.</p> <p>Working collaboratively with First Nations and land managers, the project will treat invasive species with herbicides and conduct invasive species management across the Galton Range.</p>	East Kootenay Invasive Species Council	\$ 27,411	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay

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18	COL-F25-W-4030	<p>Restoring Kootenay River wetland</p> <p><i>Bummers Flats Floodplain and Wetland Habitat Restoration:</i> This multi-year project will restore 264 hectares of wetland in a floodplain along the Kootenay River.</p> <p>The project will reactivate natural floodplain processes and restore wildlife habitat for a diversity of wetland-associated species, including fish and migratory birds.</p> <p>This project is a partnership between ʔaḡam, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Province of B.C., the Nature Trust of B.C., and Reconnect Restoration and Consulting.</p>	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$ 67,056	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay
19	COL-F25-W-4031	<p>Restoring wetland along the Columbia River</p> <p><i>Moberly Marsh Floodplain and Wetland Habitat Restoration:</i> The goal of this multi-year project is to restore 270 hectares of wetland and 133 hectares of associated upland in the floodplain along the Columbia River near Golden.</p> <p>The project will reactivate natural floodplain processes that have been disconnected from the river by ditches, dikes, and impoundment structures. The restoration will benefit wildlife habitat for the 237 bird species that have been detected, including more than 100 breeding species. The project will also benefit other wildlife that use the area, including snakes, amphibians, raptors, grizzly and black bears, wolves, elk, deer, beavers, muskrats, small mammals, and other wetland-associated species.</p>	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$ 101,431	Habitat-based Actions	North Columbia

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20	COL-F25-W-4041	<p>Gauging effectiveness of wildlife corridors in the Elk Valley</p> <p><i>Safe Passages for Wildlife in the Southern Canadian Rockies:</i> This project will monitor the effectiveness of highway wildlife crossings (overpasses and underpasses) to reduce the road mortality of wildlife in southeastern B.C., including grizzly bear, black bear, wolverine, lynx, cougar, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, bighorn sheep, American badger, moose, and other wildlife.</p> <p>This year, work will focus on purchasing equipment and classifying images to support existing monitoring of wildlife crossing structures along Highway 3 in the Elk Valley. Also, a monitoring program will be started in Radium Hot Springs, where a series of wildlife crossing structures for bighorn sheep are being installed.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 12,593	Monitoring & Evaluation	East Kootenay
21	COL-F25-W-4045	<p>Improving Rocky Mountain ungulate habitat</p> <p><i>Kicking Horse Canyon Habitat Enhancement Project:</i> The goal of this multi-year project is to enhance approximately 112 hectares of elk winter range in the Upper Kicking Horse Canyon, near Yoho National Park, and will benefit elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer.</p> <p>This project maintains previously treated ungulate winter range by thinning immature forest to help elk move through the terrain and detect predators more easily, promote forage growth, and improve forest structure for snow interception.</p>	Golden District Rod and Gun Club	\$ 54,285	Habitat-based Actions	North Columbia

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22	COL-F25-W-4077	<p>Recovering endangered whitebark pine in the Columbia Region</p> <p><i>Columbia Whitebark Pine Recovery Planting:</i> This project will focus on planting 30,000 endangered seedlings near Valemount and Nakusp and reducing competition for whitebark pine trees in 10 hectares on Bootleg Mountain near Kimberley.</p> <p>Cones collected in 2021–2023 were used to prepare the seedlings for planting. Permits have been secured for competition removal. Whitebark pine is an Endangered species in B.C. due to the impacts of white pine blister rust, mountain pine beetle, global climate change, and changes to fire regimes. It is considered a keystone species.</p>	Moody Tree	\$ 58,756	Species-based Actions	East Kootenay
Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:				\$727,424 (15 projects)		

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#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
23	COL-F25-W-4129-DCA	<p>Supporting recovery of caribou near Nakusp in Selkirk Mountains</p> <p><i>F25 Caribou Recovery:</i> This annual and ongoing project supports a multi-agency effort led by the Province of B.C. to recover threatened caribou sub-populations in the Central Selkirk Mountains east of Nakusp.</p> <p>This year, work will focus on caribou, cougar, and wolf mortality investigations, wolf pack sizes, caribou census and collaring, and predator track surveys. In addition, moose will be surveyed near Revelstoke to determine habitat use, survivorship, and vulnerability to predators.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 158,767	Species-based Actions	Basin-wide
24	COL-F25-W-4127-DCA	<p>Enhancing East Kootenay ecosystems</p> <p><i>F25 East Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement:</i> Efforts to suppress wildfires over the past 60-80 years have increased tree density and ground fuel in East Kootenay upland forests.</p> <p>This project's goal is to convert these forest types back to a density where prescribed burning can be used to restore grasslands and open forest habitat and benefit wildlife. Work includes prescription development, slashing, piling, pile burning, masticating, burn-planning, prescribed burning, post-burn monitoring, and reporting.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 228,838	Habitat-based Actions	East Kootenay

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25	COL-F25-W-4123-DCA	<p>Stewardship of conservation lands</p> <p><i>F25 Land Management Operations:</i> This annual and ongoing project conducts land stewardship activities on conservation lands. These activities include patrols of highly used conservation areas in partnership with First Nations Guardians to monitor the lands and land uses, document non-compliant activities, update signage as required, and engage with partners and the public.</p> <p>Other activities include improving habitat values on conservation lands, such as beaver re-introduction in the Duncan/Lardeau conservation area, and slashing treatments in the West Kootenay conservation lands to improve the amount of browse available for ungulates.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 318,642	Habitat-based Actions	Basin-wide
26	COL-F25-W-4120-DCA	<p>Supporting land securement activities in our Columbia Region</p> <p><i>F25 Land Securement Support:</i> The construction of BC Hydro dams resulted in the loss of important valley bottom wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Each year, the FWCP's Columbia Region board allocates funding towards activities like the Kootenay Conservation Program's work to support priority land-acquisition projects that strongly align with Columbia Region action plan priorities.</p> <p>Land securement is a priority action for all ecosystems in our Columbia Region.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 53,960	Habitat-based Actions	Basin-wide

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27	COL-F25-W-4128-DCA	<p>Enhancing habitat for non-game species</p> <p><i>F25 Non-Game Enhancement:</i> This annual and ongoing project focuses on maintaining habitat features such as roosting and nesting sites for non-game species including Vaux’s swift, western painted turtle (Rocky Mountain population), western toad, Townsend’s big-eared bat, common loon, western screech-owl, yellow-breasted chat, and common nighthawk.</p> <p>Monitoring enhancement projects is critical to make sure they continue to benefit wildlife.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 247,420	Habitat-based Actions	Basin-wide
28	COL-F25-W-4130-DCA	<p>Supporting northern leopard frog recovery</p> <p><i>F25 Northern Leopard Frog Recovery:</i> This annual and ongoing project involves conducting inventory, monitoring, and stewardship of the Endangered northern leopard frog population at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area.</p> <p>This population contains the majority of the remaining northern leopard frogs in B.C. It serves as the source population for re-introductions to the Upper Kootenay and Brisco areas and for captive assurance populations at the Vancouver Aquarium and Calgary Zoo.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 371,327	Species-based Actions	Basin-wide
29	COL-F25-W-4121-DCA	<p>Fire ecology: enhancing West Kootenay ecosystems</p> <p><i>F25 West Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement:</i> Efforts to suppress wildfires over the past 60-80 years have increased tree density and ground fuel in West Kootenay upland forests. This project's goal is to convert these forest types back to a density where prescribed burning can be used to restore open forest habitat and benefit wildlife. Work includes prescription development, slashing, piling, pile burning, masticating, burn-planning, prescribed burning, post-burn monitoring, and reporting.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$ 193,831	Habitat-based Actions	West Kootenay

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30	COL-F25-W-4131-DCA	Restoring and enhancing wetlands <i>F25 Wetland and Riparian Enhancement:</i> The goal of this project is to complete basic monitoring and maintenance of previously restored wetlands. Maintenance is focused on controlling invasive species on upland disturbed soil polygons. Monitoring is focused on amphibian use and water-level monitoring.	Province of B.C.	\$ 25,000	Habitat-based Actions	Basin-wide
Wildlife Annual and Ongoing Project Total:				\$1,597,785 (8 projects)		
2024–2025 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:				\$5,116,193 (30 projects)		