FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
1	PEA-F25-F-3986	**Assessing bull trout spawning habitat** *Peace Reach Bull Trout Habitat and Spawning Zones:* This project will use aerial and ground-based surveys to refine estimates of bull trout critical spawning habitat boundaries and adult spawner abundance in Peace Reach tributaries surveyed in 2016, 2017, and 2021: Carbon Creek, Clearwater Creek, the West Nabesche River, and Schooler Creek. This project will address high-priority data gaps identified in the FWCP's Bull Trout Information Synthesis and Monitoring Framework.	Diversified Environmental Services	$ 24,496	Research and Information Acquisition	Peace
2	PEA-F25-F-4019	**Improving fish passage in Kwadacha Nation Territory** *Culvert Fish Passage Assessments in Kwadacha Territory*: This project will focus on identifying barriers to fish passage within the Kwadacha Nation Territory overlapping the northern portion of the FWCP's Peace Region. A desktop analysis will be followed by field surveys, and an assessment of the obstructions, habitat quality, prescriptions to restore fish passage, and a ranked list of priorities for future restoration. This project will help restore fish passage to high-value habitat upstream of existing barriers.	Kwadacha Nation — DWB Limited Partnership	$ 66,908	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
3	PEA-F25-F-4051	**Studying west shore Arctic grayling in Williston Reservoir Watershed** *West Shore Arctic Grayling Abundance and Critical Habitats*: Building on the success of a past project in the Parsnip River Watershed, this multi-year project will use snorkeling surveys and eDNA to assess Arctic grayling abundance and critical habitat tributaries on the reservoir's west shore. In the fourth and final year of this project, an updated synthesis report on the Arctic grayling populations in the Williston Reservoir Watershed will be prepared. This project will use eDNA and snorkel surveys on the Nation, Omineca, and Osilinka Rivers; establish long-term snorkeling sections in these as well as in the Mesilinka and Ingenika watersheds; and use replication and mark-resight methods to quantify snorkeling detection probability.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 94,948	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
4	PEA-F25-F-4052	**Assessing bull trout populations and changes in life history** *Williston Bull Trout Population Structure and Life History*: This multi-year information-gathering project will fill important data gaps related to the conservation of genetic diversity and the impacts of the reservoir creation on bull trout populations (i.e., population structure, gene flow, change in age, life history, and growth). This project will build on the outcomes of a 2020-2021 Seed Grant project. This project will address high-priority data gaps identified in the FWCP's Bull Trout Information Synthesis and Monitoring Framework.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 93,808	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
5	PEA-F25-F-4053	**Supporting cold-water fish in the face of climate change** *Modelling Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin*: This multi-year project will focus on the cumulative effects of land use, climate change, and water flow regulation on river water temperatures in the upper Peace River Basin. Using a three-scale temperature monitoring and modelling approach, the project's primary goal will be to quantify and predict the spatial distribution of thermal habitat for cold-water fish. A secondary objective is to maintain and expand the network of water temperature loggers in the Williston watershed, from headwater streams down to the Peace River. The project outcomes will provide valuable information for the management of cold-water-adapted fish.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 113,849	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
6	PEA-F25-F-4054	**Examining bull trout spawner abundance and critical habitats** *Bull Trout Spawner Abundance and Critical Habitats*: This multi-year project will provide estimates of bull trout spawner abundance within index sites in four long-term monitoring sections, and in four newer index stream sections with varying degrees of land use disturbance. These newer index sections will support our understanding as to whether declines in spawner abundance are occurring on a local or regional scale and will be assessed alongside real-time hydrometric data collected by PEA-F25-F-4053 Modelling Thermal Regimes of the Upper Peace River Basin.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 74,551	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
			Grant-based Fish Project Total:	**$468,560 (6 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
7	PEA-F25-F-4090-DCA	**Improving fish passage in our Peace Region** *F25 Fish Passage with Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC, Year 4:* This multi-year project is implementing prioritized fish passage restoration actions identified through earlier FWCP-funded projects. The fish passage actions are making previously inaccessible high-quality habitat available to priority fish species in the Williston watershed, compensating for some of the river habitat lost with the creation of W.A.C. Bennett Dam. In 2024, with partners Canfor and the McLeod Lake Indian Band, the project will replace a crossing that is impeding fish passage on a tributary to the Table River. Ongoing effectiveness monitoring and habitat confirmation assessments will be performed at previously restored sites and potential future restoration sites respectively.	Society For Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC	$ 215,481	Habitat-based Action	Parsnip
8	PEA-F25-F-4138-DCA	**Advancing conservation of Arctic grayling in the Parsnip River Watershed** *Arctic Grayling Habitat Enhancement Project Year 1:* Building from several years of research and information gathering on Arctic grayling, this project will advance efforts to enhance Arctic grayling habitat in the Parsnip River Watershed. Project actions include a literature review, key interviews, and development of a process to assess threats and recommend habitat restoration and enhancement opportunities in the watershed.	TBD	$ 50,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Parsnip

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
9	PEA-F25-F-4143-DCA	**Using eDNA for brassy minnow in the Parsnip River Watershed** *Sample Collection for Brassy Minnow eDNA Assay:* This project aimed at brassy minnow, a species recently assessed as a Special Concern, will focus on collecting samples in the Parsnip River Watershed to develop an eDNA assay. eDNA analyses for this species could help improve understanding about the distribution of this fish which may be threatened by invasives, droughts, habitat deterioration, and other factors. There is little data currently about this fish and results of this work could help inform future conservation actions.	University of Northern British Columbia / BC Hydro	$ 1,650	Research and Information Acquisition	Parsnip
Fish Directed Project Total:				**$267,131 (3 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
10	PEA-F25-W-3994	**Understanding bird and bat movements to identify critical habitats** *Motus Wildlife Tracking System, Peace Basin Expansion:* This project will continue to expand the Motus Wildlife Tracking System to track birds and bats affixed with digitally encoded radio transmitters to help identify critical habitat and effective conservation measures. Nineteen tracking stations have been installed to date and, this year, more will be added to expand the coverage. In addition to tracking at-risk swallows and other birds, in 2024 the project will also track little brown myotis and northern myotis bats. This project includes installing stations at schools and other locations to incorporate the Motus Education Program, which builds knowledge about birds, bats, and conservation for grades 7–12.	Birds Canada	$ 129,649	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
11	PEA-F25-W-4017	**Studying grizzly bear movements in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory** *Understanding Grizzly Bear Habitat Use and Populations:* This multi-year project will increase understanding of culturally significant and at-risk grizzly bear populations in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory. This year, the project will expand into the Ospika study area, east of the Williston Reservoir. This project will identify grizzly bear movement corridors in the Territory through landscape connectivity modelling and camera trap stations, and investigate corridor demographics, diet, and health using hair snag stations. The goal of this project is to increase understanding of local grizzly bear populations and identify movement corridors for protection.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 47,029	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
12	PEA-F25-W-4027	**Conserving ecologically and culturally significant plants in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory** *Tsay Keh Dene Nation Herbarium for Plant and Knowledge Conservation:* Plants, lichens, and fungi that are integral to the ecology and culture of Tsay Keh Dene Nation since time immemorial are at risk due to climate change, human activities, and natural disturbances. This project builds on the outcomes of a 2022-2023 Seed Grant project and will focus on continuing to collect important botanical data with elders, provide mentorship to citizens, and create synergies with research projects in the Territory. These activities promote conservation, facilitate inter-generational knowledge transfer, provide educational opportunities, and formally document biological and cultural data that is a resource for the Nation and others interested in northern flora.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 50,578	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay
13	PEA-F25-W-4035	**Protecting wetland function by reducing erosion** *McIntyre Lake Wetland Restoration:* The McIntyre Lake wetland near the community of McLeod Lake is an important peatland complex. Significant erosion has occurred and as a result the peatland soils are becoming dewatered, degrading the function of the wetland. This project includes installing structures to reduce further erosion and return groundwater flows. The team will consider installing a beaver dam analogue to decrease flows. When complete, this project will benefit waterfowl, amphibians, and moose in approximately five hectares of wetland area.	British Columbia Wildlife Federation	$ 42,101	Habitat-based Action	Parsnip

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
14	PEA-F25-W-4036	**Assessing effectiveness of wildlife tree enhancements** *Enhancing Wildlife Tree Habitat – Effectiveness Monitoring*: This project will assess the effectiveness of 60 wildlife trees created in 2017-2018 in the Tsay Key Dene Nation Territory with FWCP funding. The wildlife trees were created using stem modifications and fungal inoculations and are intended to benefit owls, bats, woodpeckers, furbearers, and other cavity nesters. This monitoring project will determine tree condition and whether the tree is being used as habitat by cavity nesters. The outcomes are critical to confirming the effectiveness of this technique as a habitat enhancement measure.	Strategic Resource Solutions	$ 33,091	Monitoring and Evaluation	Finlay
15	PEA-F25-W-4038	**Assessing olive-sided flycatchers in the Ingenika River Watershed** *Olive-sided Flycatcher Habitat Across a Disturbance Gradient:* This is the final year of a three-year project to evaluate olive-sided flycatcher occupancy, habitat characteristics, and prey abundance and diversity at various sites across a natural and anthropogenic disturbance gradient. This year, the project will focus on field work in the Ingenika River Watershed, data analysis, and reporting. Results from this project will inform the development of habitat-based actions or land management strategies that could benefit this priority bird species.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 58,082	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
16	PEA-F25-W-4049	**Restoring abandoned access roads to support caribou recovery** *Chase Caribou Road Restoration Program:* This multi-year project will use ecological and functional restoration techniques to restore abandoned resource roads in the Chase caribou herd range and accelerate their return to a mature forest environment, reducing human and predator use. In year two of this five-year project, approximately 10 km of low elevation roads within the Chase caribou range, west of the Finlay arm of Williston Reservoir in the Swannell River Valley, will be restored. Collection of monitoring data to support additional road restoration will also occur.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 47,924	Habitat-based Action	Finlay
17	PEA-F25-W-4056	**Assessing habitat conditions for Stone's sheep** *Stone's Sheep Range Condition in Northern BC:* This project aims to build on established partnerships and fill knowledge gaps about Stone's sheep nutrition and range condition in the Tatlatui, Swannell, and Russel ranges, west of the Williston Reservoir, to better understand the habitat needs of this unique and iconic mountain ungulate. Results of this project will fill an important knowledge gap and help inform next steps toward planning habitat enhancement actions for this species with significant socioeconomic, cultural, and ecological value.	Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia	$ 90,127	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
18	PEA-F25-W-4068	**Assessing wolverine density and abundance in Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory** *Wolverine Density and Abundance in the Chase Caribou Range*: This project will use non-invasive genetic sampling to estimate wolverine density and abundance within Tsay Keh Dene Nation Territory, with a focus on the Chase caribou herd range, west of the Williston Reservoir. This project builds on the outcomes of a Seed Grant project. Climate change, trapping, and habitat disturbance correlate to declines in wolverine populations and their prey. The last abundance and distribution study of this Species of Special Concern, which is also of cultural significance to the Tsay Keh Dene Nation, was completed in 2001.	Chu Cho Environmental LLP	$ 63,618	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay
19	PEA-F25-W-4069	**Restoring caribou habitat for a Peace Region herd** *Restoring Caribou Habitat in the Klinse-Za Herd:* The focus of this multi-year project is on restoring habitat for the at-risk herd and managing access to the range to reduce impacts on the population. Work is focused on 12 linear corridors in the herd area. This year, restoration treatments are planned for three road networks totaling ~30 km, contributing to the ~78 km of linear corridors already treated during this project. Ultimately, this project will result in reduced human access, predator use, and predator movement rates, leading to accelerated forest regeneration and improved habitat for caribou.	Nikanese Wah tzee Stewardship Society	$ 102,407	Habitat-based Action	Basin-wide

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
20	PEA-F25-W-4070	**Nak'azdli Whut'en assesses elk population and movements** *Elk Distribution and Range Expansion on the Nation River:* This monitoring and assessment project will determine if elk are expanding their range to the west side of Williston Reservoir, which is likely due to climate change and increased fire frequency. If elk have expanded their range to the west side of the reservoir, this could alter predator-prey dynamics and impact other ungulates. A combination of GPS collars, surveys of First Nation community members about sightings, and future climate projections will be used to confirm current habitat use and predict future elk range.	Nak'azdli Whut'en	$ 59,012	Research and Information Acquisition	Parsnip
21	PEA-F25-W-4075	**Studying caribou predation in Nak'azdli Whut'en Territory** *Wolf Density and Distribution in the Wolverine Caribou Herd, Year 2:* Wolves are the main predator of caribou in the Wolverine herd, which is seeing a rapid decline. Caribou are one of the primary sources of food for Nak'azdli Whut'en members, who no longer hunt caribou for sustenance due to the declining population. The goal of this project is to obtain updated information on the wolf population in the Wolverine caribou herd range. This year, three more wolf packs will be collared, for a total of 12 collars in eight packs, and will provide important information on wolf movements and distribution. A survey will estimate wolf density in the range. This information is critical to developing management, conservation, and enhancement actions to support the herd's recovery.	Nak'azdli Whut'en	$ 66,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Finlay
		Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:		**$789,618 (12 projects)**		

FWCP Peace Region 2024–2025 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
22	PEA-F25-W-4136-DCA	**Supporting food security with the McLeod Lake Indian Band** *Moose Habitat Enhancement, Year 2:* This project supports First Nation food sovereignty and wildlife habitat by promoting biodiversity through recruitment of old stand variables and increasing heterogeneity of the landscape to benefit moose and overall biodiversity. Actions planned for this year include baseline monitoring, implementing habitat restoration tactics including variable spaced thinning to promote understory vegetation, gap creation to increase habitat complexity, girdle stripping to promote wildlife tree recruitment, and promoting huckleberry patches.	Society For Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC and McLeod Lake Indian Band	$ 297,000	Habitat-based Action	Parsnip
23	PEA-F25-W-4133-DCA	**Understanding long-term trends in breeding birds at Mugaha Marsh Bird Banding Station** *Mugaha Marsh Banding Station 2024-2025:* This long-term, multi-year project will add to 20-plus years of bird monitoring data collected at the Mackenzie Nature Observatory, one of 27 stations in the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. The 2024 data will provide important information on breeding bird population trends, distribution, and health, which can guide species conservation and habitat enhancement initiatives in the region.	Mackenzie Nature Observatory	$ 25,790	Research and Information Acquisition	Parsnip
24	PEA-F25-W-4134-DCA	**Leveraging academic partnerships with UNBC** *F25 UNBC Presentation Series:* This multi-year project provides education and outreach by building connections and developing relationships through a series of free presentations focused on research that is underway in, or could be applied to, our Peace Region.	University of Northern British Columbia	$ 15,000	Research and Information Acquisition	Basin-wide
			Wildlife Directed Project Total:	**$337,790 (3 projects)**		
			2024–2025 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:	**$1,863,099 (24 projects)**		