



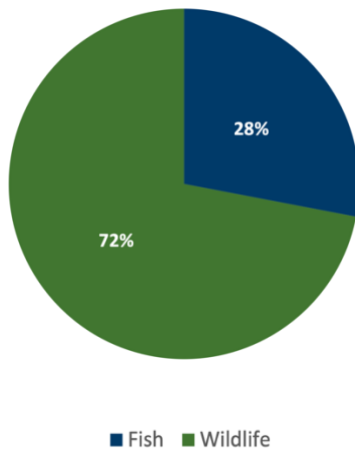
COLUMBIA REGION FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS 2025-2026

25 fish and wildlife projects approved in our Columbia Region

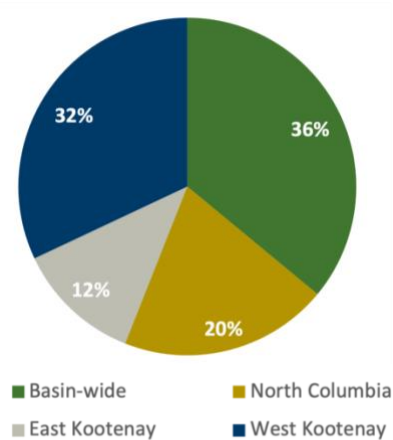
Our Columbia Region board approved approximately \$5.3 million for 25 projects in 2025-2026. The projects—7 fish and 18 wildlife—will be delivered by First Nations, communities, and businesses, as well as agencies, stewardship groups, and consultants.

The projects align with our priorities for riparian areas, wetlands, uplands, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs. The projects are diverse and support a wide range of fish species including kokanee, bull, rainbow, and westslope cutthroat trout, and wildlife such as bank and barn swallows, Vaux's swift, bats, bighorn sheep, American badger, deer, elk, northern leopard frog, caribou, and western painted turtle.

Fish & Wildlife Projects



Projects by Sub-region



The 2025-2026 projects will, among other things, benefit kokanee and rainbow trout by maintaining spawning channels, restore wetland habitat near Cranbrook, Golden, and Creston for a diverse array of wetland species, and enhance winter range for elk and bighorn sheep.

\$9.2 million approved for 72 fish and wildlife projects in our three regions

The FWCP's regional boards approved \$9.2 million to fund 30 fish and 41 wildlife projects in 2025-2026. Habitat-based projects account for more than three-quarters of the project funding.

The boards also approved more than \$1.2 million to support the purchase and protection of critical habitats across our three regions. New funding—about \$70,000—was approved for Seed Grants, and another \$32,500 was approved for Community Engagement Grants.

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FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Grant-based Fish Projects	Project Lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
1	COL-F26-F-4238	<p>Restoring fish habitat in Cottonwood Creek</p> <p><i>Cottonwood Creek Aquatic Habitat Enhancement:</i> Cottonwood Creek in Nelson has been impacted by development and industrial activity and its habitat value has been degraded.</p> <p>The goal of this project is to enhance habitat for kokanee, bull trout, rainbow trout, and longnose dace. This will be achieved by restoring the lower section of the creek to reduce stream channelization and increasing habitat complexity and diversity.</p>	Living Lakes Canada	\$35,664	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay
2	COL-F26-F-4214	<p>Preventing the spread of whirling disease</p> <p><i>Whirling Disease Prevention and Monitoring:</i> Whirling disease can cause high mortality in fish populations, particularly juvenile salmon, and is spreading in our Columbia Region.</p> <p>This project will monitor for whirling disease in lakes and streams with high values for Species at Risk, such as westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout, and kokanee.</p> <p>The goal is to prevent the spread of whirling disease through engagement and planning, with an emphasis on building capacity among First Nations.</p>	Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	\$27,349	Habitat-Based Action	Basin-wide
Grant-based Fish Project Total:				\$63,013 (2 projects)		

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
3	COL-F26-F-4322-DCA	<p>Supporting Hill Creek Spawning Channel on Arrow Lakes Reservoir</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$299,164	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay
4	COL-F26-F-4323-DCA	<p>Adding nutrients to the North Arm of Kootenay Lake</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$1,215,939	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
5	COL-F26-F-4324-DCA	<p>Adding nutrients to Arrow Lakes Reservoir</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$993,545	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay
6	COL-F26-F-4330-DCA	<p>Supporting Meadow Creek Spawning Channel at Kootenay Lake</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$310,834	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay
Fish Annual and Ongoing Project Total:				\$2,819,482 (4 projects)		

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2024-2025 Directed Fish Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Region
7	COL-F26-F-4328-DCA	<p>Ensuring the sustainability of Murphy Creek Spawning Channel</p> <p><i>Murphy Creek Spawning Channel Monitoring and Maintenance:</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	\$28,700	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay
Fish Directed Project Total:				\$28,700 (1 project)		

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
8	COL-F26-W-4253	<p>Gathering data to understand threats to yellow-breasted chats</p> <p><i>Yellow-breasted Chat Monitoring in the West Kootenay:</i> The goal of this project is to understand the threats and limiting factors faced by the red-listed yellow-breasted chat, which is in danger of extirpation in B.C.</p> <p>The yellow-breasted chat population along the Columbia and Pend D’Oreille rivers has remained small for the past 20 years.</p> <p>Monitoring efforts include territory occupancy surveys, colour-banding of birds, nest monitoring, and vegetation surveys. These methods will collect data about return rates, nest success, immigration, and causes of nest failure.</p>	Okanagan Nation Alliance	\$34,305	Species-Based Action	West Kootenay
9	COL-F26-W-4182	<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 maintain previously treated ungulate winter range for Rocky mountain elk in the Upper Kicking Horse Canyon and support habitat connectivity on a landscape scale.</p> <p>This year the team will maintain approximately 112 hectares of previously treated ungulate winter range by thinning immature forest to help ungulates 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	\$97,695	Habitat-Based Action	North Columbia

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
10	COL-F26-W-4204	<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 breeding habitat for at-risk bank and barn swallows in the North Columbia and East Kootenay.</p> <p>This year's work will focus on monitoring effectiveness of artificial nesting structures and enhancements that were completed at numerous pre-existing sites. Structures were installed between Donald and Invermere. These innovative structures were among the first to be used in western Canada, underscoring the need for effectiveness monitoring.</p> <p>Greater connectivity of breeding habitat and enhancing breeding sites will allow for increased abundance of at-risk swallows in the region.</p>	Wildsight Golden	\$13,430	Monitoring & Evaluation	North Columbia

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
11	COL-F26-W-4231	<p>Restoring a Kootenay River floodplain</p> <p><i>Bummers Flats Floodplain and Wetland Habitat Restoration:</i> This multi-year project will restore 50 hectares of wetland in a floodplain along the Kootenay River</p> <p>The project will re-activate natural floodplain processes that were disturbed by engineered dikes. Habitat will be restored for a diversity of wetland species, such as waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, amphibians, bats, elk, and beaver. Suitable habitat for Endangered northern leopard frog will also be created.</p> <p>ᑭᐱᑭᐱᐱ is leading with Indigenous knowledge that will inform restoration.</p>	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$158,633	Habitat-Based Action	East Kootenay
12	COL-F26-W-4226	<p>Restoring Columbia River wetland habitat</p> <p><i>Moberly Marsh Floodplain and Wetland Habitat Restoration:</i> This multi-year project will restore 46 hectares of wetland habitat along the Columbia River wetland near Golden.</p> <p>The project will reactivate natural floodplain processes that have been disconnected from the river by ditches, dikes, and impoundment structures. Restoration will reconnect river and wetland habitats, increase the diversity of native plants, improve water storage, and provide ecosystem resilience to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Restoration will benefit a diversity of wetland species, including waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, amphibians, bats, muskrat, beaver, deer, elk, cougar, and bear.</p>	Ducks Unlimited Canada	\$161,726	Habitat-Based Action	North Columbia

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
13	COL-F26-W-4272	<p>Restoring wetlands and floodplains in the East Kootenay</p> <p><i>Advancing Wetland Stewardship & Restoration in the Kootenays:</i> This project will restore 10 hectares of wetland and floodplain habitat on Yaqan Nuʔkiy lands near Creston, and on a tributary near Golden.</p> <p>Simple, low-tech methods that mimic natural processes will be used to restore wetland habitat. The project will also increase landscape connectivity, and enhance habitat for amphibians, waterfowl and breeding birds, bats, bears, cougars, and ungulates.</p>	British Columbia Wildlife Federation	\$82,125	Habitat-Based Action	Basin-wide
14	COL-F26-W-4243	<p>Stewarding conservation lands in the Columbia Region</p> <p><i>NTBC Land Stewardship Activities – Conservation Field Crew Program:</i> This multi-year 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 focus on fostering closer collaboration with local First Nations and advancing collaboration in on-the-ground conservation activities.</p> <p>The crew will focus work on conservation properties acquired previously with our funding, including the Duncan-Lardeau, Waldie Island, Big Ranch, and Hoodoo conservation lands. The work will benefit bighorn sheep, Lewis's woodpecker, Williamson's sapsucker, American badger, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, great blue heron, and other species.</p>	The Nature Trust of British Columbia	\$24,200	Habitat-Based Action	Basin-wide

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
15	COL-F26-W-4190	<p>Reducing invasive species spread in the East Kootenay</p> <p><i>Galton Range Invasive Plant Management:</i> The goal of this multi-year project is to reduce invasive species in high-value habitat and complement ongoing habitat restoration work in the Galton Mountain Range. This project limits the spread of invasives by targeting known vectors and responding to new infestations, helping maintain biodiversity in high-value habitats.</p> <p>Working collaboratively with First Nations and land managers, the project will carry out forest thinning and controlled burns to boost forage quality for bighorn sheep and other ungulates, such as elk, moose, white-tailed deer and mule deer.</p>	East Kootenay Invasive Species Council	\$26,906	Habitat-Based Action	East Kootenay
16	COL-F26-W-4201	<p>Enhancing habitat for bighorn sheep in the North Columbia</p> <p><i>Golden Bighorn Sheep Habitat Enhancement:</i> This project aims to enhance winter range habitat for bighorn sheep and improve connectivity to their seasonal migratory habitats.</p> <p>Much of the Golden bighorn sheep herd's home range suffers from forest ingrowth. This project will clear vegetation from the forested areas, create more open habitat, and allow sheep to safely move between different habitats without using highway shoulders. Habitat enhancement will also help sheep detect predators and improve forage quality.</p>	Golden District Rod and Gun Club	\$25,414	Habitat-Based Action	North Columbia

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	2025-2026 Grant-based Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
17	COL-F26-W-4212	<p>Conserving bat populations in our 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 our Columbia Region.</p> <p>This year's plan includes expanding acoustic monitoring to identify migration pathways, constructing roosting structures, and surveying for White Nose Syndrome.</p>	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	\$85,061	Species-Based Action	Basin-wide
18	COL-F26-W-4191	<p>Managing invasive species in Revelstoke Reach</p> <p><i>Revelstoke Reach Invasives:</i> The goal of this multi-year project is to manage invasive species in the riparian areas along upper Arrow Lakes Reservoir between Shelter Bay and Revelstoke, an area known as Revelstoke Reach. This conservation area of concern provides valuable habitat for ground-nesting water birds (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds) and at-risk species such as western painted turtle and short-eared owl.</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	\$14,038	Habitat-Based Action	North Columbia
Grant-based Wildlife Project Total:				\$723,532 (11 projects)		

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
19	COL-F26-W-4318-DCA	<p>Supporting northern leopard frog recovery</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$412,922	Species-Based Action	Basin-wide
20	COL-F26-W-4319-DCA	<p>Supporting recovery of caribou near Nakusp in Selkirk Mountains</p> <p><i>F26 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 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.	\$162,375	Species-Based Action	Basin-wide

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
21	COL-F26-W-4320-DCA	<p>Enhancing habitat for non-game species</p> <p><i>F26 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, and common loon.</p> <p>Monitoring enhancement projects is critical to make sure they continue to benefit wildlife.</p>	Province of B.C.	\$261,923	Habitat-Based Action	Basin-wide
22	COL-F26-W-4321-DCA	<p>Enhancing East Kootenay ecosystems</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$231,755	Habitat-Based Action	East Kootenay

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
23	COL-F26-W-4325-DCA	<p>Stewardship of conservation lands</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$354,885	Habitat-Based Action	Basin-wide
24	COL-F26-W-4326-DCA	<p>Fire ecology: enhancing West Kootenay ecosystems</p> <p><i>F26 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.	\$214,168	Habitat-Based Action	West Kootenay

FWCP Columbia Region 2025–2026 Project List

#	Project ID	Annual and Ongoing Wildlife Projects	Project lead	FWCP Funding	Project Type	Sub-region
25	COL-F26-W-4329-DCA	<p>Supporting land securement activities in our Columbia Region</p> <p><i>KCP Land Acquisition & Base Support F26:</i> Each year, our Columbia Region board allocates funding towards the Kootenay Conservation Program’s work to support priority land-acquisition projects that strongly align with Columbia Region action plan priorities.</p> <p>This project includes GIS support from the Province of B.C.</p>	The Nature Trust of British Columbia	\$54,260	Land Securement	Basin-wide
Wildlife Annual and Ongoing Project Total:				\$1,692,288 (7 projects)		
2025–2026 PROJECT SPEND TOTAL:				\$5,327,016 (25 projects)		