



COASTAL REGION GUIDANCE FOR ANNUAL GRANT APPLICANTS 2026

Our annual grant intake is now open and we are accepting online applications until 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on **Monday, November 2, 2026**. Grant applicants will be notified of the regional board’s decision by **March 2027**.

If you’re applying for an FWCP grant, start by reading this document with information about:

- Guidance, core elements, and mandatory requirements
- Early engagement with First Nations
- What we’re looking for in a grant application
- How grant applications are evaluated

Complete your grant application [online](#).

Learn more about our grants! Join us for an online information session.	
Monday, June 29, 2026 1-2 p.m. PT 2-3 p.m. MT	CHANGES TO FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT IN OUR COASTAL REGION New this year! We’re working to strengthen our relationships with First Nations in our Coastal Region and are encouraging Coastal Region grant applicants to engage early with First Nations about proposed projects before submitting their grant application. Register now for our info session and learn more about early engagement with First Nations and what we will look for when we evaluate grant applications.
Friday, October 2, 2026 10-11 a.m. PT 11 a.m.-12 p.m. MT	OVERVIEW OF OUR GRANT INTAKE Register now . Find out more about our grants and how to align your project idea with our core elements and regional action plans. Get answers to your questions and tips to help you succeed!

Questions? Contact our Coastal Region Manager

Mark Sherrington
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 604-830-9396

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WHO MAY APPLY?

Eligible grant applicants include: First Nations government, communities, and businesses; consultants, agencies, non-government organizations, local governments, individuals, and academic institutions.

All grant applicants must be able to provide:

1. a WorkSafeBC clearance letter; and
2. proof of commercial general liability.

WHAT PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR AN FWCP GRANT?

1. Projects that align with our regional action plans

Our regional [action plans](#) identify the priority actions eligible for FWCP grants (see the action tables in each action plan). Your proposed project must align **with one or more open priority action(s)**. Each priority action in our action plans is identified as OPEN or DIRECTED. Your project must be aligned to an **OPEN** priority action to be eligible for a grant.

Delivery method?	Eligible for a grant?
OPEN	Eligible for a grant. Go ahead and apply!
DIRECTED	Not eligible for a grant. Do not apply for a grant for this action. Our regional boards will address DIRECTED projects through other funding mechanisms.

2. Projects that will occur within or relate to an FWCP region

We fund projects delivered within the boundaries of our [Coastal](#), [Columbia](#), and [Peace](#) regions. We may fund projects in multiple watersheds, and projects that only partially overlap with our watershed boundaries if the project is related to a species that moves across the regional boundary (e.g., salmon species, grizzly bears). These projects must demonstrate they are addressing a priority action in our regional action plans.

3. Projects that align with project eligibility criteria

Table 1: FWCP project eligibility criteria

FWCP does:	FWCP does not:
Fund actions to create, restore, or otherwise improve the function of ecosystems that have been impacted by the permanent loss of habitat associated with dams, including the permanently flooded habitat (below the drawdown zone) resulting from reservoir creation ¹ .	Fund projects to compensate for impacts to fish and wildlife resulting from the operation of a BC Hydro generating facility that has other programs in place (e.g., entrainment, ramping rates, water level changes, structural fish passage through a facility, or reservoir archaeology).
Fund specific management actions for species identified by recovery teams and action/implementation groups.	Lead the development of species recovery goals, or fund, co-ordinate, or lead national recovery teams for species at risk.
Fund near-term knowledge gathering that informs the development of conservation, restoration, or enhancement actions.	Fund core activities of government or non-government agencies or programs.

¹ This does not include transmission infrastructure.

Fund monitoring programs designed to measure the effectiveness of FWCP-funded habitat and ecosystem based projects.	Engage in enforcement and compliance activities under the purview of government agencies.
Contribute to all aspects of managing co-operatively managed conservation lands.	Fund programs designed exclusively to address government objectives.

4. **New this year!** Consider our three core elements

What’s coming in 2027: We’re in the process of renewing our approach to project funding and will be implementing changes for our annual grant intake that opens next year.

What’s new this year: As a first step toward changes that will be fully implemented starting in summer 2027, we are making a few incremental changes to the questions we ask in our grant application this year.

Prepare for questions about dam impacts, First Nations values, and conservation priorities.

Our revised online 2026 grant application will ask applicants to demonstrate how their proposed project reflects the FWCP’s three core elements (see Figure 1 below), including our primary obligation to compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife and their habitats resulting from BC Hydro dams.

The FWCP will consider funding compensation projects that reflect three core elements.



During the review of grant applications in 2026, our regional boards will consider how well the three core elements are reflected in each grant application. Starting in 2027, new evaluation criteria will formally include alignment with our core elements.

Figure 1: The FWCP's three core elements

CORE ELEMENTS OF FWCP-FUNDED PROJECTS

The FWCP will consider funding compensation projects that reflect three core elements. The core elements are intended to strengthen alignment between our primary obligation to compensate for dam impacts, and simultaneously consider First Nation values, and conservation priorities in the watersheds where we work. Starting in 2027, these three program-wide elements will guide funding decisions for all of our grants, in all regions, regardless of the proponent or the delivery method.

Dam Impacts

BC Hydro generating facilities and reservoirs resulted in the permanent loss or alteration of habitat and ecosystems in the reservoir footprint. At the watershed level, dams also impacted aquatic and terrestrial species, and disrupted ecological processes, both upstream and downstream of a dam.

Additionally, the infrastructure (such as roads) necessary for power generation may have enabled further human activity and resource extraction in watersheds where a BC Hydro dam exists, adding to the cumulative effects and creating additional dam-related impacts to fish and wildlife, leading to additional conservation priorities.

Potential projects must demonstrate how the target species, ecosystem or habitat has been impacted by the creation of a BC Hydro dam.

First Nations' Values

There are known dam impacts to culturally important species, habitats, and ecosystems. Potential projects should reflect Indigenous knowledge systems, laws, and protocols, and demonstrate important elements of Indigenous world views including the concept of all living things being interconnected.

Potential projects should demonstrate how and why the species, habitat, or ecosystem has value for the relevant Nation(s) based on the proposed location for the project and how it was impacted by a BC Hydro dam, if the impact is known. This considers whether a project aligns with the environmental, cultural, and territorial stewardship and caretaking interests of the Nation(s) where the project is proposed.

Conservation Priorities

Human activities place conservation pressures on species, habitats, ecosystems, and ecological functions and processes. This core element considers the need of a proposed project with respect to improving the state of the species, habitat, or ecosystem a project is targeting. This may include the state of the watershed where your project would occur (i.e., the current ecological function and resilience), relevant imminent threats including a changing climate or limiting factors, and conservation status.

Potential projects should demonstrate why a species, habitat, ecosystem, or ecological function/process would benefit from intervention for conservation, restoration or enhancement.

ENGAGING EARLY WITH FIRST NATIONS

New this year! We expect applicants to engage early with First Nations

Strengthening the engagement of First Nations in FWCP-funded projects is a priority for our Coastal Region board and we are actively working to broaden the engagement of First Nations in the projects approved for funding by our Coastal Region board.

This year we expect all grant applicants in our Coastal Region to engage early with the appropriate First Nation(s) based on the location of your proposed project. Refer to the provincial [Consultative Areas Database](#)² to identify the appropriate First Nations. We recommend using a Nation's referral portal(s) if one exists, or contacting the appropriate person(s) at the Nation(s) directly to engage early about your project idea.

Early engagement with First Nations should:

- occur prior to submitting your grant application;
- follow our [guidance on early engagement](#);
- identify options for First Nations to engage with your project (e.g. provide input to the project, be part of the project team, provide in-kind or other support); and
- be documented in your grant application by describing which Nations you spoke with and the outcomes of those discussions.

² Note: FWCP's understanding is that the Provincial Consultative Area Database is not intended to create, recognize, limit, or deny any aboriginal rights, including title, that First Nations may have.

Early engagement of First Nations will be a consideration in the evaluation of all Coastal Region grant applications received by the grant deadline on **Monday, November 2, 2026**.

Learn more about First Nations engagement in our Coastal Region.	
Monday, June 29, 2026 1-2 p.m. PT 2-3 p.m. MT	Register now for our info session and learn more about early engagement with First Nations and what we will look for when we evaluate grant applications.

COASTAL REGION GUIDANCE AND REMINDERS

We strongly encourage applications that include other funding sources

We encourage grant applicants to include additional funding partners in their grant application that can help leverage FWCP funding for greater positive ecological effect.

When we review and evaluate all grant applications, we will consider both the nature of project and funding partners, and the overall project budget (i.e., is there demonstrated value for money?).

Research projects must inform conservation actions

The Coastal Region board wants to strengthen the link between research and information gathering projects and the FWCP's [strategic objectives](#).

Grant applications that clearly demonstrate how results from the proposed research and information gathering project will benefit future conservation actions or inform decisions to conserve and enhance the watershed will receive a more favourable evaluation by reviewers.

Grant applications must describe how the proposed project will address data gaps to better understand limiting factors, inform a decision leading to a conservation action, or address a specific land use or recovery plan. Proposed research and information gathering projects must identify how the proposed project will benefit fish, wildlife, or ecosystems in the watershed. For example, show how the proposed project will:

- correlate the data collected to a clearly identified resource management objective or conservation action (e.g., land use plan, recovery plan, etc.);
- describe how the data addresses knowledge gaps; and
- describe how the proposed project will inform next steps to improve or clarify a management objective.

The grant application should include a support letter from an appropriate resource manager to confirm the need for the proposed project results to further conservation efforts.

Follow our Campbell River Gravel Restoration Strategy

The mainstem Campbell River is important for spawning Chinook salmon. In 2018, the FWCP funded a process to develop a strategy for salmon spawning habitat enhancement and monitoring in the Lower Campbell River. The [Campbell River Gravel Restoration Strategy](#) identifies priority spawning sites for restoration.

If you are proposing a Lower Campbell River project for gravel monitoring (priority action 23 in our Campbell River Watershed Action Plan) or salmon spawning habitat restoration (priority action 13 in our Campbell River Watershed Action Plan), it must align with the [Campbell River Gravel Restoration Strategy](#).

Contact us if you are proposing a project near BC Hydro reservoirs

Your safety is important to us. If your proposed project is located on or near BC Hydro property, reservoirs, or downstream of a generation station, please [contact](#) our Coastal Region manager before submitting your grant application. We can share helpful information about safety hazards. There may also be additional time and budget considerations should a BC Hydro property access agreement be required.

Contact us if you are proposing a project in select Vancouver Island watersheds

If you are proposing a project in the Ash, Campbell, Jordan, or Puntledge River watersheds, you **MUST** [contact](#) our Coastal Region manager prior to submitting your grant application. There are large private land holdings in each of these watersheds and, as a result, there is an additional project screening process.

FWCP Coastal Region manager: Mark.Sherrington@bchydro.com or 604-830-9396.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A GRANT IN 2026?

Step 1: Develop a project idea that aligns with our regional action plans

Our [action plans](#) identify the priority actions eligible for FWCP grants (see the action tables in each action plan). Your proposed project must align with one or more open priority action(s) in any of our regional action plans. Develop a project idea that will achieve the intended outcome(s).

New this year: Your proposed project should also reflect our three **core elements**: dam impacts, First Nations' values; and conservation priorities.

Step 2: Engage early with First Nations, agencies, interest holders, and communities

Grant applicants should refer to the provincial [Consultative Areas Database](#) to identify Indigenous communities, contact, and referral information where your project will occur, based on geographic area.

New this year: We expect grant applicants to engage with the Nation(s) you have identified. If a Nation has a referrals portal, we recommend using it to discuss your project. If a Nation does not have a referrals portal, we expect you to identify the appropriate contact(s) and engage in alignment with their guidance.

This early engagement is an important part of our commitment to First Nations. It helps identify opportunities for First Nations' perspectives on and engagement in your project.

The FWCP values partnerships and encourages grant applicants to identify and engage project partners and/or funding partners to leverage FWCP funds. Engage with government agencies, interest holders, and other communities of interest as appropriate.

Step 3: Build upon past work—review relevant project reports and outcomes

Before developing your grant application, review our [project report list](#) for relevant work already completed. If there is a relevant project report, consider how, or if, the work you propose in your grant application will build on past work. The FWCP has posted more than 500 final reports on provincial databases, making our project results and data available to anyone.

You may also wish to review relevant provincial databases and map-based tools that include projects not funded by the FWCP to identify information or recommendations that could support your grant application.

[Species Inventory Web Explorer](#)

[EIRS: Environmental Information Resource System](#)

- [EcoCat: Ecological Reports Catalogue](#)
- [CLIR: Cross-Linked Information Resources](#)
- [HabitatWizard](#)
- [Fisheries Inventory Data Queries \(FIDQ\)](#)

Step 4: Obtain one mandatory letter of support

All Coastal Region grant applicants must submit at least **one** letter of support for your project from **one** of the following:

- First Nations;
- government agencies; or
- interest holders/community groups.

If you are a First Nation, you **do not** have to submit a letter of support from a First Nation. Likewise, if you are a government agency, you **do not** have to submit a letter of support from a government agency.

Step 5: Submit your online grant application by Monday, November 2, 2026

[Start a grant application](#) and be sure to complete all sections, fulfill the mandatory requirements and submit by **4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on Monday, November 2, 2026**. Our grant management system will validate your grant application entries immediately after you submit your application and indicate right away if any required information is missing.

Tips for completing grant applications

- You can save your grant application and return to it anytime.
- The grant application is organized by key sections (see tabs in the online grant application) and you can complete the grant application in any order.
- Our grant management system does not validate your application or look for missing entries until you submit. Therefore, we suggest you avoid submitting your application immediately before the deadline in case you need to make corrections or additions. We only review grant applications received by the deadline.

Tips for multi-year grant applications

- If your project spans multiple years, you must apply for funding annually. Approval of annual FWCP funding for a multi-year project **does not** guarantee FWCP funding in future years.
- If you are in year two or more of a multi-year project, you can save time by contacting our Environmental Project Coordinator, Sharon Johnson (Sharon.Johnson@bchydro.com or 604-528-8136), to request a copy of your previous application. This copy can be used to start the current year's grant application.
- If you are beyond year one of your multi-year project, your grant application must identify achievements and challenges encountered in previous year(s).

How to start an application

If this is the first time your organization has applied online for an FWCP grant, you will first need to register. Our online grant management system will prompt you to complete and submit the mandatory notice of intent after you log in and start your grant application.

If your organization is already registered in our online grant management system but **you** have never accessed the system, please contact our Environmental Project Coordinator, Sharon Johnson (Sharon.Johnson@bchydro.com or 604-528-8136), who'll set up a profile for you and link you to your organization.

WHAT'S IN A GRANT APPLICATION?

This section provides an overview of our grant applications and what information you'll be asked to provide.

Description

Project summary: Project title, project summary statement, and project urgency

Project details: Species that will benefit, detailed project description

Applicant information

Applicant information: Organization, project contact, signing authority, collaborators, project supporters, Indigenous engagement, and project volunteers

Project information

Project location information: Map, location description, project coordinates (latitude and longitude)

Alignment with action plan(s): Primary action plan, sub objective, action type, alignment with priority action and intended outcome(s), and optional alignment with secondary action plan

Project details

Alignment with core element(s): How your project reflects our primary obligation to compensate for dam impacts to fish, wildlife and their habitats; as well as First Nations values and conservation priorities.

Single or multi-year project: Project duration, provide overview of project achievements and challenges for ongoing multi-year projects

Project phases: Start-up, fieldwork, data entry and analysis, community engagement (i.e., define how you plan to share your project results and involve others in your proposed project), draft reporting, and final reporting

Benefits: Benefits to fish and/or wildlife

Ongoing maintenance: Is ongoing maintenance required to sustain benefits?

Effectiveness monitoring: Do you have an effectiveness monitoring plan if your project involves restoration/enhancement?

Community engagement: What are your plans to share results and engage with First Nations, interest holders, and others?

Permits and approval: The status of the landownership in your project area (e.g., BC Hydro-owned lands, proximity to BC Hydro facility, or other land ownership) and information on any required permits and approvals

Project budget

Budget:

- Labour expenses,
- Materials, equipment, transportation, and field expenses
- Project administration costs
- GST section
- Additional revenue (i.e., other funding sources, in-kind and volunteer contributions)

Notes:

- For materials and equipment, the FWCP does *not* provide funding to purchase non-consumable items (e.g., GPS units, cameras, electronics, boats, tents, etc.). Rental rates for non-consumable items are acceptable.
- How GST is claimed depends on your organization type. There are three options:

- a) Not-for-profit, government, and CHUMS (charities, hospitals, universities, municipalities, and schools) organizations would be expected to incur some GST on their inputs. The FWCP can be responsible for the net amount of GST *after* the organization's rebate percentage (i.e., if you get a rebate of 75% of your GST, FWCP can cover the remaining 25%).
- b) Consultants and registered businesses (which don't receive a GST rebate) would be expected to incur GST and claim a full input tax credit on their inputs. The estimated GST that would apply to the total FWCP contribution needs to be split out from the project cost and line items and entered in the GST section of the budget along with the organization's GST number.
- c) If you don't have a GST number, estimate the cost(s) with GST and enter it as part of the project cost and within the line items.
- o Travel expenses (meals and mileage) need to align with accepted standardized rates:
 - Per diem meal rates: breakfast = \$20; lunch = \$23; dinner = \$35
 - Mileage:
 - 2x4 rate = \$0.73/km for first 5,000 km and \$0.67/km after
 - 4x4 rate (when mode required) = \$1.01/km for first 5,000 km and \$0.67/km after
- o Total FWCP contribution towards administration costs (telephone charges, photocopies, printing, mailing/courier, etc.) is not to exceed 5% of the total FWCP contribution for project expenses for government and 10% for non-government. Administration costs should not be specified for consultants whose rates normally include administration costs.
- o The total project cost includes funding from all sources, including, but not limited to, the FWCP, other funders (if any), the total value of all in-kind contributions (if any), and applicable taxes.
- o For the additional revenue section, volunteer contributions should be expressed as \$250/day for skilled labour and \$100/day for unskilled labour for a standard day of eight hours. In-kind contributions for professionals should use standard charge-out rates.

Funding: You will be asked about any previous FWCP funding you have received, as well as any previous applications you made that were not approved.

Proposals

A six-page (maximum) project proposal is required for all annual grant applications.

Letters of support

Include mandatory letters of support for your project.

Experience

Project contact experience: It is mandatory to include the experience and credentials of the project contact. We encourage you to provide the credentials and experience of **key** team members so we can properly evaluate your grant application. Please note, if your proposed project activities involve 'reserved practice' according to the [Professional Governance Act](#), make sure you have team members with the appropriate credentials to perform or oversee the work.

HOW ARE GRANT APPLICATIONS EVALUATED?

We evaluate grant applications for:

- A clear and well-defined approach that aligns with the priority action(s), as stated in the relevant action plan(s).
- A strong linkage between the proposed project and the intended outcome(s) as stated in the relevant action plan(s). Are there clear objectives that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound?

- Technical design: Are the methods and approaches for the proposed project acceptable and appropriate? Are there direct benefits to fish and/or wildlife?
- Engagement of First Nations in the proposed project: Document your engagement efforts in your grant application and provide a rationale.
- Describe how your project will engage with the community. Costs may be included in the project budget.
- Partnerships: The FWCP values partnerships and encourages all grant applicants to identify and involve project partners and/or funding partners to leverage FWCP funds.
- Budget: Are the charges for fees (including charge out rates) and expenses appropriate and reasonable? Is there a demonstrated good value for the money?
- Relevant credentials and experience of the team members, and roles of individuals on the project: Does the project team have the skills, expertise, and capacity to carry out the project? Are the right people in the right roles?
- Overall quality of the grant application: Is it a clear, easily understood grant application with strong linkages to the priority action(s) and intended outcome(s)?
- **New this year:** Although not formally evaluated, the boards will consider how projects reflect our core elements.