



COLUMBIA REGION GUIDANCE FOR ANNUAL GRANT APPLICANTS 2026

New this year! Only grant applications for current FWCP-funded multi-year projects will be accepted

Due to increasing delivery costs, the FWCP's Columbia Region board decided to pause this year's intake of annual grant applications for new projects to be delivered in 2027-2028 (F28), including Seed Grants. The board plans to resume the intake of annual grant applications for new projects and Seed Grants in 2027 for F29 projects. See *What projects are eligible for an FWCP grant?* below to learn more.

In our Columbia Region, all grant applicants must start their application by submitting a mandatory [notice of intent](#)—a short description of your proposed project—by 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on **Friday, September 11, 2026**.

All completed grant applications must be submitted online by 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT on **Monday, November 2, 2026**. Grant applicants will be notified of the regional board's decision in **February 2027**.

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

- Guidance, core elements, and mandatory requirements
- What we're looking for in a grant application
- How grant applications are evaluated

Complete your mandatory notice of intent and grant application [online](#).

Learn more about our grants! Join us for these online information sessions.

Thursday, August 6, 2026 1 p.m. PT 2 p.m. MT	INTRODUCTION TO THE NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) Register now . Learn more about this mandatory first step for all grant applicants in our Columbia Region. Find out how the NOI supports First Nations engagement in your project and allows us to provide you with additional guidance ahead of submitting your grant application. All grant applicants must start their application by submitting a mandatory notice of intent by Friday, September 11, 2026 . Join our online information session to learn more.
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 Columbia Region Manager

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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. **New this year!** Only grant applications for current FWCP-funded multi-year projects will be accepted.

Due to increasing delivery costs, the FWCP's Columbia Region board decided to pause this year's intake of annual grant applications for new projects to be delivered in 2027-2028 (F28), including Seed Grants. The board plans to resume the intake of annual grant applications for new projects and Seed Grants in 2027 for F29 projects.

Land Securement Grant: Applications for Land Securement Grants will continue to be accepted year-round.

Community Engagement Grants: Applications for Community Engagement Grants will continue to be accepted year-round, until the board-approved funding is fully allocated.

2. 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, OPEN/DIRECTED, or DIRECTED. Your project must be aligned to an **OPEN** or **OPEN/DIRECTED** priority action to be eligible for a grant.

Delivery method?	Eligible for a grant?
OPEN	Eligible for a grant. Go ahead and apply!
OPEN/DIRECTED	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.

3. Projects that are a priority 1 action only

Only grant applications that have a **primary** alignment with a **priority 1 action** will be accepted in this year's grant intake. Grant applications that have a **primary** alignment with **priority 2 or 3 actions will not be accepted** in this year's grant intake (i.e., grant applications that align with a priority 2 or 3 action as the **secondary** action will be accepted).

RESERVOIRS AND LARGE LAKES ACTION TABLE - ECOSYSTEMS (PISCIVOROUS RAINBOW TROUT)							Version: AUG2019	
Action #	Action Type	Priority Action Short Description	Priority	Priority Area	Target Species	Priority Action	Intended Outcome	Delivery Approach
17	Monitoring and Evaluation	COURLLECO.ME.17.0 Effectiveness monitoring of past piscivorous Rainbow Trout projects in Kootenay, Arrow-P1	1	Kootenay Lake Arrow Lakes	Piscivorous Rainbow Trout	Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of previous FWCP piscivorous Rainbow Trout habitat-based projects. Include an approach for adaptive management, information sharing and collaboration among agencies and the public stakeholders to increase the efficacy of conservation action.	Ensuring habitat-based actions are functioning as intended.	Directed / Open
		COURLLECO.ME.17.0 Effectiveness monitoring of past piscivorous Rainbow Trout projects in Duncan, Kinbasket-P2	2	Duncan Kinbasket				

Figure 1: Review our action plans to confirm the priority ranking assigned to each of our actions. Grant applications will be accepted for only priority 1 actions this year.

4. Projects that will occur within an FWCP Region

We fund projects delivered within the boundaries of our [Coastal](#), [Columbia](#), and [Peace](#) regions. Our Columbia Region includes a portion of the Columbia River Basin and our wildlife extension area (northwest of Valemount). Grant applications for wildlife projects in the wildlife extension area are eligible for funding. Grant applications for fish projects in the wildlife extension area are not eligible for funding (i.e., the FWCP funds projects related to the Columbia River system, not the Fraser River). The Canadian portion of the Flathead River Basin is not part of our Columbia Region.

5. 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.
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.

¹ This does not include transmission infrastructure.

6. **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 consider 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. Review our [Resources for grant applicants](#) to learn more about dam impacts in our Columbia Region watersheds.



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 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 should consider how the target species, ecosystem or habitat has been impacted by the creation of a BC Hydro dam. We've developed a list of regional resources to support grant applicants in describing how their proposed project addresses our primary obligation to compensate for dam impacts. [Learn more.](#)

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

COLUMBIA 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?).

Applications must align with priority 1 actions only

For the F28 grant intake, we will be accepting only grant applications for currently FWCP-funded multi-year projects that align to priority 1 actions in our Columbia Region [action plans](#).

We will continue to carefully review and evaluate projects in our Columbia Region to maximize benefits to fish and wildlife through our three-stage review process that involves our program office, technical committees, First Nations Working Group, and regional board. As a reminder, all existing grant applicants must submit a [notice of intent](#) as the first step of an application.

Individual grants typically range from \$8,000 to \$200,000, with an average grant amount of \$50,000. Please note that as the amount of funding requested from FWCP increases, the Board's expectations also increase. Please see page 11 for more details about how applications are evaluated.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A GRANT IN 2026?

Step 1: Save time and copy your previous year's application

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 year's application. This copy can be used to start the current year's grant application.

New this year: Your proposed project should also reflect our three **core elements**: dam impacts, First Nations' values; and conservation priorities. Although not formally evaluated, the boards will consider how projects reflect our core elements.

Step 2: Submit your mandatory notice of intent by September 11, 2026

The [notice of intent](#) (NOI) helps identify opportunities for First Nations perspectives on and involvement in your project. The NOI also helps our Columbia Region manager give you additional guidance to support your grant application.

The NOI is the first step in completing your grant application. All applicants, including First Nations, must submit a mandatory notice of intent online by **Friday, September 11, 2026 at 4 p.m. PT / 5 p.m. MT**.

The notice of intent includes:

- Brief project summary
- Name of grant applicant/organization and contact information
- List of other project supporters
- Project location
- Project duration (number of years)

Need help?

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 will set up a profile for you and link you to your organization.

Step 3: Engage with First Nations

Members of our Columbia Region's First Nations Working Group will review your NOI and determine if they want to discuss your project with you prior to the grant application deadline. Our Columbia Region manager will notify all grant applicants by late September which First Nations are interested in discussing your proposed project with you. [Learn more](#) about how to engage. Our board will consider First Nations engagement during their review of all grant applications.

Step 4: Engage with agencies, interest holders, and communities

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

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

[Finish your grant application](#) and complete all sections, fulfill all 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.

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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Optional letters of support

Letters of support for your project are optional in our Peace Region, but they can be used to strengthen your grant application. If you choose to submit letters of support along with your grant application, please ensure the letter authors clearly indicate their support for your proposed project and specify their involvement (i.e., actively involved, engaged in project planning and/or delivery, providing in-kind and/or cash support, or supporting the project in principle). A letter of support should come from an organization, First Nation, or government agency, and it should demonstrate how the support is relevant to 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.