

### 43 projects announced for 2021-2022

Our Columbia Region board approved \$5.7 million for 43 projects in 2021-2022. The 11 fish and 32 wildlife projects will be delivered by Indigenous groups, agencies, stewardship groups, consultants, and others. Together, the projects will research and monitor fish and wildlife populations, improve habitat, and help species of conservation concern, such as bull trout, bighorn sheep, and more. Read our 2021-2022 [Columbia Region project list](#) and visit our interactive [project map](#).

[Enhancing West Kootenay ecosystems](#), which includes prescribed burns, is among the projects being funded. More details of this burn next to Arrow Lakes Reservoir below. Photo T. Hill



Bull trout is a focal species of interest in our [Reservoirs and Large Lakes Action Plan](#), and we're funding projects in all three sub-regions of the Columbia Region to monitor them, or improve their habitat. Photo: Jeremy Baxter

### \$9.4 million approved for 100 projects in our three regions

Our three regional boards approved 100 projects this year to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. "We are so happy to be able to celebrate Earth Day by supporting fish and wildlife species across the province," says Monique Stevenson, FWCP program manager. "The work being done through these projects supports our vision of thriving fish and wildlife populations in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable." See all the projects we're funding this year in our [Coastal](#), [Columbia](#), and [Peace region](#) project lists.



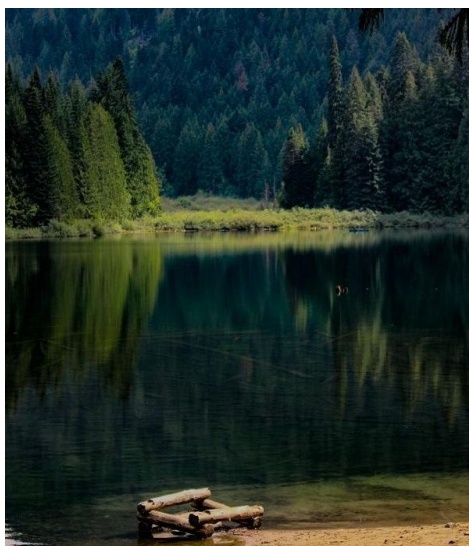
[Watch the video](#) to find out more about how the Golden District Rod & Gun Club is spearheading a project to support bighorn sheep.

## Supporting bighorn sheep in the Kicking Horse Canyon

Efforts are underway to help a small herd of threatened bighorn sheep in the Kicking Horse Canyon, near Golden. The multi-year project, with funding from the FWCP, will document the movements of bighorn sheep and collect baseline health data.



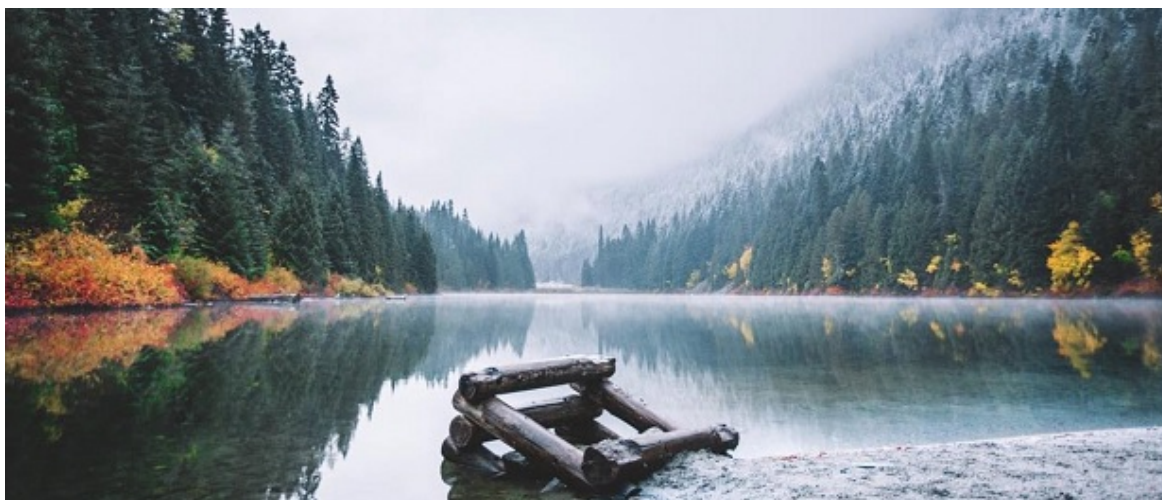
Five GPS tracking collars were used to track the sheep's day-to-day movements. This data on habitat use will inform long-term proactive steps to support the sheep. [Read more](#)



## FWCP provides \$75,000 to conserve Cottonwood Lake

The FWCP has provided funding to help the Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society conserve more than 49 hectares—121 acres—of land that had been scheduled for logging next to Cottonwood Lake, south of Nelson. The lake feeds two watersheds that support between 110-160 km<sup>2</sup> of land. Critically, Cottonwood Lake is home to the region's best corridor for the Endangered South Selkirk grizzly bear, and the area contains a sensitive wetland ecosystem. [Read more.](#)

Photos: Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society







A successful prescribed burn occurred over two days in April in the Van Houten Creek watershed. Photo: Nazzy King

## Prescribed burn treats more than 100 hectares

The weather conditions were perfect on April 13 and 14 for a successful prescribed burn of 109 hectares at Van Houten Creek on the east side of Arrow Lakes Reservoir between Deer Park and Fauquier. The burn, funded by the FWCP and conducted by the B.C. Wildfire Service in partnership with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, will create more open forest conditions, rejuvenate forage for ungulates, and improve overall biodiversity in the area.



## Northern spotted owl webcam: coming soon!

The northern spotted owl webcam, with funding from the FWCP, will be up and running in May! Tune in to see the rarest owl in Canada at the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program in Langley, BC. Be sure to check the webcam out in the evenings and early mornings when the chicks are most active.

The northern spotted owl is one of Canada's most endangered species, with only about 10 individuals left in the wild in British Columbia. [Check out some of the photos](#) from previous years.

Photo: Nicole Wajmer



The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

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