

Peace Region News May 2022



One of the 25 projects approved by our Peace Region board this year will support the Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC to remove <u>a barrier to fish passage</u> in the Parsnip River Watershed. Photo: iStock/MLHaring

Twenty-five projects announced in our Peace Region

Our Peace Region board approved more than \$1.4 million for 25 projects this year. The projects—nine fish and 16 wildlife—will be delivered by Indigenous Nations, communities and businesses, as well as agencies, stewardship groups, and consultants. Together, the projects will improve habitat, research and monitor fish and wildlife populations, and support species of conservation concern, including woodland caribou, bull trout, and Arctic grayling.

Read our <u>Peace Region 2022-2023 project list</u> and visit our <u>interactive project map</u>.



A wide range of species and ecosystems will benefit from the projects approved in our Coastal, Columbia, and Peace regions. Some projects will result in immediate benefits to species, while others will fill important data gaps and help define future conservation actions. Approved projects include short term-projects as well as multi-year projects that build on work and results year over year. All projects support our vision of thriving fish and wildlife in watersheds that are functioning and sustainable. Photos clockwise from top left: A. Taylor; iStock Supercaliphotolistic; iStock Y. Gauthier; iStock D. Gaura; B. Houston; Wildlife Infometrics; Chu Cho Environmental

\$9.8 million approved for 95 projects in our three regions

Our three regional boards approved funding for 95 projects this year to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams. "We take a forward-looking approach that balances protecting past conservation efforts and contributing to the resilience of watersheds in the future while remaining focused on our overall mission to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams," says Monique Stevenson, FWCP program manager. See all the projects we're funding this year in our Coastal, Columbia, and Peace region project lists.

Nearly 87% of project funding in 2022-2023 across all three regions is going toward land securement or habitat- or species-based actions. The \$9.8 million in FWCP funding has helped leverage another \$12 million, for a total project value of nearly \$22 million.



Northern spotted owl webcam coming soon!



The northern spotted owl webcam will be live in the next few days! Watch the rarest owl in Canada at the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program in Langley, B.C. Be sure to check it out in the evenings and early mornings when the owls are most active. Bookmark this page: <u>fwcp.ca/owlwebcam/</u>. The webcam is hosted by the FWCP and the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program. Bella on the nest, April 27, 2022. Photo: NSOBP

Watch videos of FWCP-funded projects in our Peace Region!



At-risk caribou herd triples in size

The Klinse-Za caribou herd has nearly tripled in size since 2013, and the survival rate of calves born in the pen is more than two and a half times higher than those born outside it. <u>Watch a video</u> on the project by the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) and listen to a feature on <u>CBC's Quirks and Quarks</u> to learn more about the caribou maternity pen which is led by the West Moberly First Nations and Saulteau First Nations with funding from the FWCP. The project has been described as one of the only success stories of caribou conservation in the world. <u>Watch now</u>. Photo: Wildlife Infometrics



Bird banding at Mugaha Marsh

We have been helping to fund bird-banding operations at Mugaha Marsh, run by the Mackenzie Nature Observatory, for nearly thirty years. Take an inside look at the bird-banding station near Mackenzie and see how valuable longterm data collection on migratory birds is proving to be. <u>Watch now</u>. Photo: Mackenzie Nature Observatory

Understanding the summer diet of moose



Find out how moose poop is being analyzed to improve understanding of their summer diets! This project, led by the University of Northern B.C. with FWCP funding, puts moose droppings under the microscope to identify the plants and habitats they rely on to survive. There are reports of moose dying of apparent starvation in some parts of north central B.C., and this important data will help determine whether starvation is a problem for moose in the FWCP's Peace Region and inform future habitat conservation actions. <u>Watch now</u>. Photo: iStock/S Greenman

Study results: methylmercury levels in fish

A <u>new brochure</u> about mercury levels in fish in the Peace River system is now available. It incorporates information from a multi-year FWCP-funded mercury study in the Williston and Dinosaur reservoirs and results from other work, to improve understanding of mercury levels in fish in all parts of the reservoir system.

The study involved Indigenous Nations and analyzed tissue samples from more than 1,400 fish. Learn about the <u>results</u>.



Community Engagement Grants available!

We're looking for stewardship groups and others in our Peace Region who need up to \$1,000 for a project to benefit fish and wildlife. Apply today for a <u>Community Engagement Grant</u>. The application is short, easy to complete, and you'll get an answer quickly.

The Tsay Keh Dene Nation was recently awarded a Community Engagement Grant to construct and install 10 fisher den boxes. Photo: iStock/Betty4240

Follow us on social media





Get updates on project results, early notice of grant opportunities and deadlines, as well as invitations to information sessions about the projects we fund and the species that benefit. Follow us on <u>Instagram</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>!



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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