



7-543: Peck Creek-Upper Carbon



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

2024-2025 Approved Project List

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Projects highlighted in **green** are co-funded by the Forest Enhancement Society of BC



Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
BC's Family Fishing Weekend	0-229	BC's Family Fishing Weekend (FFW) is held annually on Father's Day Weekend and is an opportunity for people to fish license-free from June 14-16th 2024. The events held on FFW aim to decrease barriers to entry for fishing and increase environmental stewardship and awareness. FFW provides an opportunity for youth and their families to spend time together in nature while learning about how to fish responsibly and sustainably.	\$15,000	Jenna Merth Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC 780-522-7695 jenna.merth@gofishbc.com
NatureKids BC: Intergenerational Nature Clubs	0-398	For over 20 years, NatureKids BC has inspired and empowered British Columbian families to understand and care for the natural world in their local community through environmental education, outreach and stewardship activities. The Intergenerational Nature Clubs Project engages and connects children and their families to nature and conservation, specifically BC's biological diversity. In this cycle, children ages 5-12 and their families in nature clubs across BC will build knowledge and awareness of fish, wildlife and their habitats with over 2500 outdoor adventures, learning opportunities, and stewardship experiences.	\$40,000	Rebecca Law NatureKids BC 604-220-6756 executivedirector@naturekidsbc.ca
Conservation Land Operations and Management	0-451	This program provides funding to assist with the operation and management of approximately 115 significant wildlife habitat areas across BC, overseen by the Nature Trust of BC or the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.	\$617,995	Christina Waddle BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-356-7669 Christina.Waddle@gov.bc.ca
BC Wild and Domestic Sheep Stewardship Program	0-466	The BC Wild and Domestic Sheep Stewardship Program is supported by multiple agencies and stakeholders focused on finding effective long-term solutions to a controversial wildlife health issue. Its objectives are to expand domestic sheep and goat farm outreach/education, understand the prevalence of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> (M.ovi) on farms, and support provincial policy to reduce the risk of transmission to wild sheep and goats. The ultimate vision is for healthy wild sheep and goats and healthy sheep and goat farming across BC.	\$63,250	Jeremy Ayotte Phyla Biological Consulting Inc 250-804-3513 jeremy.ayotte@gmail.com
Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions	0-467	Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions (GBCS) provides practical solutions to meet the challenge of recovering grizzly bear populations overlapping with rural agricultural areas in low-elevation habitats in BC. Grizzly bear conflicts create a real and perceived threat to rural BC residents and their property, and GBCS enables the change of social norms and behaviours to prevent and mitigate such conflicts while increasing human and bear safety. This work builds on prior established successes and focuses on mentorship of various individuals and groups, including First Nations and large-scale commercial agriculture, to meet the goal of improved grizzly bear-human coexistence in the province.	\$19,500	Gillian Sanders Sanders Environmental Services 250-353-1137 grizzlybearsolutions@gmail.com
Got Bats? B.C. Community Outreach, Conservation and Citizen Science	0-476	"Got Bats?" is a network of community bat projects across BC that promotes bat conservation through 1) education and outreach to raise awareness of threats to bats and to recruit local bat stewards; 2) detection, protection, and monitoring of bat roosts; 3) province-wide Citizen Science involvement to engage the public and detect population declines; and 4) enhancement of habitat including installation of bat boxes.	\$92,960	Katie Calon BC Conservation Foundation 604-576-1433 kcalon@bccf.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
NABat, BatCaver, and Beyond: Protecting BC's Bats	0-511	Threats to bats in BC are escalating, including the recent detection of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in BC for the first time. Climate change is contributing to habitat loss from wildfires and mass mortalities that have been documented at some overheating bat box roosts. This project will gauge the species-specific impacts of these threats to bats in BC, monitor species diversity and habitat use, examine migratory patterns, and investigate roosting ecology. Results will guide mitigation efforts and deploy and evaluate habitat enhancements to benefit BC's species-rich bat communities.	\$82,648	Cori Lausen WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada 250-353-8204 clausen@wcs.org
Protecting BC Bats: Probiotic prophylaxis for White-Nose Syndrome	0-536	White-nose syndrome (WNS) is spreading in the Pacific Northwest and the two most common building-roosting bat species are experiencing the highest mortality of any of the 13 hibernating bat species in the PNW region. If unchecked, this disease is expected to devastate some western bat populations as it has in the east over the past decade. WCS Canada, partnering with Thompson Rivers and McMaster Universities, the Province, and Washington Fish and Wildlife, is seeking to protect significant maternity colonies in the Pacific Northwest through application (and field verification) of an anti-WNS probiotic.	\$71,036	Cori Lausen WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada 250-353-8204 clausen@wcs.org
Determining Factors Affecting Moose Population Change	0-541	This project will enable new and continued analysis of moose population trends and dynamics required for management decisions by assessing calf and cow survival rates and calving rates. These demographic parameters are primary drivers of population trend and key research gaps identified from the initial 5-year Provincial Moose Research Project and the following 5 years of focused research. This information will help develop habitat management recommendations for Provincial and First Nation decision-makers that can improve conditions for moose.	\$50,000	Morgan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-649-4392 Morgan.Anderson@gov.bc.ca
Quality Waters Strategy - West Coast	0-545	This project focusses on the Classified Waters of Haida Gwaii. The work will include a River Guardian program to assess and enhance regulatory compliance of sport steelhead fisheries. Stock assessment will also be undertaken on the Yakoun River, and an assessment of fishery impacts to cutthroat trout on the Tlell River.	\$35,000	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Forests 250-739-8211 Brendan.Anderson@gov.bc.ca
Province-Wide Workshops to Control Yellow Flag Iris	0-573	The goal of the project is to train land managers on how to use benthic barriers to control yellow flag iris, an aquatic invasive species. The training program is like a spider web in that the land managers then train their staff and key volunteer groups. This program results in greater treatment of yellow flag iris across the province and benefits fish and wildlife through ecosystem restoration.	\$20,600	Catherine Tarasoff Agrowest Consulting Scientists Ltd 250-572-2132 catherine@agrowest.ca
Coastal Cutthroat Trout: Provincial Risk Assessment	0-617	This project will generate a Provincial Risk Assessment Report for coastal cutthroat trout (CCT) by synthesizing the provincially available information on CCT with input from a broad spectrum of knowledge experts to establish key biological attributes, status indicators, and risk rankings by population group. The purpose of this project is to elevate the profile of this important native fish, identify priority conservation concerns, provide guidance to regions seeking to deliver regional action plans aimed at protecting and managing CCT, and provide the basis from which a Provincial CCT Management Plan may be subsequently developed.	\$48,624	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-739-8211 Brendan.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
The BC Furbearer Tissue Bank - Building a Foundation for Wildlife Conservation	0-620	The BCTA has partnered with Vancouver Island University and governments to create and deliver a tissue sampling program to proactively facilitate research activities on the health and conservation of native furbearer species in BC. The program will collect samples and data, centralize, catalogue, store, and share tissue samples from seventeen native species which will provide guidance for on-the-ground habitat management and enhancement or restoration decisions and activities.	\$74,341	Jamie Gorrell BC Trappers Association 250-753-3245 Jamie.Gorrell@viu.ca
Science-Based Guidance to Manage and Conserve American Goshawk Foraging Habitat	0-623	The goal of this project is to compile and synthesize information about goshawk foraging ecology and habitat requirements and use that information to develop science-based guidance to manage goshawk foraging habitat in BC. This work will focus on defining the probability of outcomes to goshawks across a range of habitat management strategies and habitat protection levels, allowing managers to make informed decisions based on risk tolerance and in relation to competing resource values.	\$42,400*	Todd Mahon LGL Limited 780-905-0034 tmahon@lgl.com



0-541: Determining Factors Affecting Moose Population Change

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Vancouver Island	1-72	Operation and maintenance of the aeration program at Glen Lake, flow augmentation in Sandhill Creek, inspection and maintenance of fishways located in the Gordon River and Colquitz Creek, and an Annual Dam Inspection at Keogh Lake.	\$12,750	Scott Silvestri BC Ministry of Forests 250 751-3128 Scott.Silvestri@gov.bc.ca
Life-Cycle Monitoring of Steelhead at the Keogh River	1-319	The purpose of this project is to support freshwater riverine research initiatives to aid in the management and understanding of BC steelhead and other salmonine species. This project provides a collaborative research location for governments, First Nations, academia, and non-government organizations to investigate questions about the ecology and life history of steelhead and other fish species.	\$95,841	Trevor Davies BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-698-9218 trevor.davies@gov.bc.ca
Georgia Basin Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project	1-538	By supporting the recovery of reintroduced Western Bluebirds through in-depth population monitoring and extensive nesting support, a local community is engaging in long-term Garry oak ecosystem stewardship with the goal of returning Western bluebirds to their historic range in the Salish Sea.	\$20,585	Jacquie Taylor BC Conservation Foundation 250-889-1892 jtaylorbluebird@gmail.com
Vancouver Island Small Lake Enrichment Program	1-644	In partnership with Ministry of Forests and Freshwater Fisheries Society BC, this program provides unique kokanee salmon and rainbow trout for fisheries regionally. Through the addition of liquid nutrients, altered stocking regimes and modified angling regulations, this program has been shown to improve fish growth (sizes at age) and produce larger fish available for angling on Vancouver Island.	\$52,810	Aaron Androsoff BC Conservation Foundation 250-390-2525 aandrosoff@bccf.com
Reestablishing Vancouver Island Marmots in Strathcona Provincial Park	1-693	The Marmot Recovery Foundation will build and expand on efforts to reintroduce Vancouver Island Marmots to Strathcona Provincial Park and create a self-sustaining population of these endemic mammals. Efforts will focus on translocations, food enhancement, and monitoring.	\$50,470	Adam Taylor Marmot Recovery Foundation 250-390-0006 adam@marmots.org
Investigating Impacts of Ultraviolet Filters on the Cowichan River Ecosystem	1-713	This project will investigate ultraviolet filter (UVF) (sunscreen) contamination within the Cowichan River watershed and its potential impacts on aquatic organisms. It will also lead an education and outreach program to mitigate UVF inputs at high-priority locations and engage relevant stakeholders and decision-makers to apply contamination mitigation strategies throughout the watershed.	\$20,273	Jessie Paras BC Conservation Foundation 250-390-2525 JParas@shaw.ca
Fishing and Natural Mortality of Cutthroat Trout in Cowichan Lake	1-728	This multi-year study uses acoustic telemetry and high reward tags to estimate fishing and natural mortality of wild cutthroat trout in one of Vancouver Island's most popular freshwater fishing destinations, Cowichan Lake. These results will provide information on the utilization of the lake by sub-adult and adult fish including spatial and temporal distribution, and mortality estimates will be used to support an evaluation of the regulations currently in place as well as alternative approaches.	\$92,490	Erin Rechisky Kintama Research Services 250-667-6951 erin.rechisky@kintama.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Habitat Protection and Connections for Western Toads	1-766	This project will help sustain an important breeding population of Western Toads within the Huu-ay-aht First Nations traditional territory by reducing three threats: road mortality, habitat fragmentation and recreational trampling. The effectiveness of newly installed underpasses and fences will be monitored in guiding adult and juvenile toads safely under the roads surrounding their breeding lake. Barriers, educational signage, and stewardship events will be used to reduce recreational disturbance and trampling of shoreline habitat where juvenile toads emerge after metamorphosis.	\$17,316	Barbara Beasley Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot & Barkley Sounds 250-726-2536 beasley@island.net
Kus-kus-sum - Un-paving Paradise	1-770	The Kus-kus-sum project is the restoration of a former industrial sawmill site in the heart of the salmonid migratory corridor for the watersheds of two major rivers, the Puntledge and the Tsolum. It will restore the site to the pre-disturbance state as a forested tidal wetland and reconnect the site to the floodplain and the Courtenay River through the removal of a 400m steel-piling wall. Species that will benefit include pink, chum, coho, chinook (summer- and fall-run) salmon as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout, and many other wildlife species.	\$91,500	Caitlin Pierzchalski Comox Valley Project Watershed Society 778-866-4240 caitlin.pierzchalski@projectwatershed.ca
Initiating a Community-Based Flow Monitoring Network for East Coast Vancouver Island	1-791	BCCF is continuing to coordinate and oversee a community-based flow monitoring network for volunteer-led stewardship groups, First Nations, NGO's, and government agencies across the east coast of Vancouver Island (ECVI). Multiple streamkeeper groups operating across the ECVI are keen to monitor flow to better understand and improve habitat conditions in local streams; this project supports the groups by providing equipment and technical support, training opportunities, data feedback, quality control, data management, and helping build capacity for partner organizations.	\$14,490	Ally Badger BC Conservation Foundation 250-390-2525 abadger@bccf.com
Climate Change and Wildlife Habitat Conservation on Salt Spring Island	1-798	Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) will protect and enhance wildlife habitat on the island by employing conservation strategies that assist both mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. SSIC will protect climate-resilient lands, restore and enhance ecosystems within the rare Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, survey target species, and expand SSIC's native plant nursery to supply native plants (including drought-tolerant and fire-resistant species) for restoration and education initiatives. Stewardship education is integral to this project and includes collaborative hands-on nature education, a diversity of events for the public, building relationships with landowners, and informative signage on SSIC's nature reserves.	\$48,795	Penelope Barnes Salt Spring Island Conservancy 250-931-4627 pbarnes@saltspringconservancy.ca
French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve Habitat Restoration	1-807	The French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve (FCENP) encompasses diverse and sensitive ecosystems that provide sanctuary for an abundance of native plants and wildlife, some of which are rare and endangered species. Significant habitat disturbance within and surrounding the FCENP has threatened biodiversity loss in the face of encroachment of invasive plant species. This project will address three main objectives that aim to remove and manage invasive plant species, restore and enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitats by supporting regeneration of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem, and monitor the effectiveness of restoration efforts to ensure long-term conservation of biodiversity.	\$38,660	Pam Shaw Vancouver Island University 250-753-3245 pam.shaw@viu.ca
Vancouver Island Steelhead Stock Decline Investigations	1-826	This project will evaluate the current abundance of wild summer-run steelhead on several rivers across Vancouver Island. Given the continued bleak returns of winter-run Steelhead across Vancouver Island and the more recent decrease in summer-run returns, this project will expand ongoing standard stock assessment work to include several more systems across Vancouver Island.	\$35,034	Danny Swainson BC Conservation Foundation 250-390-2525 dswainson@bccf.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Responding to Fish Kills on the Cowichan River Through Enhanced Monitoring	1-834	In response to the summertime fish kill event on the Cowichan River in 2023, this project will support a coordinated and enhanced multi-agency monitoring program of the Cowichan River fish stocks and fish habitat conditions through 2024. This information will allow managers and decision-makers the ability to evaluate the degree to which impacts on juvenile fish in 2023 may carry forward through 2024, identify early season indicators of environmental stressful conditions, and support in-season opportunities for response and/or mitigation.	\$20,000	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Forests 250-739-8211 Brendan.Anderson@gov.bc.ca
Xwaaqw'um Wetland Restoration 2024	1-835	Stqeeye' Learning Society is restoring 20 hectares in Xwaaqw'um on Salt Spring Island by winter 2026. In 2024-25, 2.6 ha of new wetlands will be created, 690m of stream will be repaired, and 4.5 km of old logging roads will be deactivated. Wetlands will be replanted with fast-growing drought-tolerant shrub and tree species, to encourage beaver to re-populate the valley once again.	\$100,000	Rachel Bevington Stqeeye' Learning Society 778-901-2308 rachel@stqeeye.ca



1-538: Georgia Basin Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Enhancing Upland Farmland for Wildlife in the Fraser River Delta	2-349	This project will contribute to enhancing approximately 1,295 hectares of upland agricultural habitat in the Fraser River estuary for migratory and resident bird species. In partnership with farmers in the Cities of Delta and Richmond, grassland habitat will be established on agricultural land, in the form of winter cover crops and grassland set-asides, to provide high-quality feeding and resting habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey.	\$30,000	April Stainsby Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust 604-970-7640 april@dfwt.ca
Learn to Fish Program (L2F)	2-390	Learn to Fish (L2F) is designed to break down barriers to recreational fishing by introducing youth and adults to the recreational activity. The program includes instruction on angling licence requirements, regulations, fish identification, non-native introduced species, endangered species, fishing ethics, as well as technical fishing skills. L2F is delivered across all regions of the province, to approximately 30,000 participants annually and has reached over 375,000 participants since its inception in 2006.	\$80,000	Mike Gass Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC 604-302-6235 Mike.Gass@gofishbc.com
Juvenile White Sturgeon Monitoring Program	2-692	This project uses a combination of paid and volunteer angling guide effort to capture and tag juvenile White Sturgeon in the Fraser River and tributaries from Delta/Richmond to Yale. The goal is to increase the sample size of marked juvenile fish and the amount of juvenile mark-recapture data to improve our understanding of distribution, abundance, recruitment trends, and growth rates for this key life stage.	\$152,001	Caroline Melville InStream Fisheries Research 604-892-4615 caroline@instream.net
Squamish Watershed Bull Trout Angler Exploitation Assessment	2-700	This project will assess the angling effort and exploitation of Bull Trout in the Squamish Watershed, primarily using a high-reward tagging program modeled after a similar initiative in the Upper Pitt River. It will also pilot the angler reporting app "MyCatch" (Angler's Atlas 2021) to evaluate its ability to assess angling exploitation within the fishery.	\$12,150	Caroline Melville InStream Fisheries Research 604-892-4615 caroline@instream.net
Juvenile White Sturgeon Critical Habitat in the Pitt River Watershed	2-715	This telemetry study addresses uncertainties regarding the migration behaviour and habitat use of Lower Fraser River juvenile sturgeon. Focused research completed in the Pitt River watershed across a variety of intact and altered habitat types will help discern habitat use preferences and identify critical rearing and overwintering habitats for the juvenile life stage. This study will provide managers with appropriately scaled data to develop and justify habitat protections and restoration initiatives that will be key for White Sturgeon recovery.	\$286,500*	Allison Hebert InStream Fisheries Research 604-428-8819 allison@instream.net
Shedding Light on Still Creek	2-751	Shedding Light creates stewards by connecting targeted demographics of East Vancouver to local green spaces through hands-on restoration work, accessible educational offerings, and citizen science opportunities within the Still Creek watershed. It will improve habitat conditions for native aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, reduce total coverage of invasive plants and garbage, create multi-story vegetation within sensitive habitat, and create the conditions for improving water quality within the watershed.	\$41,089	Clea Moray Still Moon Arts Society 604-729-9273 clea@stillmoonarts.ca
Nathan Creek Watershed Status Evaluation for Coastal Cutthroat Trout Conservation	2-776	This project aims to conserve coastal cutthroat trout in Nathan Creek through the watershed evaluation of upland and instream threats paired with studying species distribution and habitat utilization throughout the system. Protecting and restoring habitat for cutthroat will raise the profile of its importance as a fisheries resource and serve as a template for evaluation, watershed process-based restoration, and provide information for water allocation decisions.	\$6,740	Emmanuel Abecia BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-974-2485 Emmanuel.abecia@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
University of British Columbia Coyote Project	2-785	This project seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of anthropogenic impacts on urban coyotes to help reduce human-coyote conflict in urban areas and aid wildlife managers by providing data on how much human-derived food urban coyotes are eating, how healthy urban coyotes are, and which coyotes are most likely to exhibit aggressive behaviours towards humans. Combining field-based observational methods with several different analytical techniques will determine how urbanization is impacting the diet and health of urban coyotes and test hypotheses regarding which coyotes are likely to come into conflict with humans.	\$88,591	Sarah Benson-Amram University of British Columbia 604-822-2507 sarah.benson-amram@ubc.ca
Lower Fraser White Sturgeon Creel Study	2-786	The goal of this project is to produce an accurate assessment of the White Sturgeon recreational fishery in the lower Fraser River. Estimates from both tidal and non-tidal areas will inform pressure on sturgeon from guided and non-guided anglers, and profiles of anglers and the fishery will provide insight into resource users. The results of this project will directly inform future resource allocation decisions and address one of the main concerns of First Nations expressed during the White Sturgeon Management Planning process.	\$49,430	Dani Ramos-Espinoza InStream Fisheries Research 604-428-8819 dani@instream.net
Alouette Reservoir Bull Trout Assessment	2-787	Bull trout are an endemic species of char widely distributed within BC. They are blue-listed and identified as a species of Special Concern under SARA/COSEWIC. This project will address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout within the Lower Fraser Ecological Drainage Unit, maintain long-term paired adult counts with estimates of juvenile abundance to provide estimates of stock productivity, and inform the Province's understanding of bull trout population at low abundance near conservation thresholds which is a current gap. Bull trout resilience at low abundance can be used in conservation and management science.	\$15,496*	Jennifer Sarchuk BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 604-398-5002 jennifer.sarchuk@gov.bc.ca
Skagit River Bull Trout Risk Assessment	2-788	Bull trout are an endemic species of char widely distributed within BC. This project seeks to address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout within BC, especially within the core area of the Puget Sound Ecological Drainage Unit. While the Upper Skagit watershed has been identified as low risk, the annual snorkel surveys are subject to significant variation, questioning whether these methods are reliable in determining status.	\$5,000	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Forests 250-505-4116 greg.andrusak@gov.bc.ca
Coquihalla River Bull Trout Status Assessment	2-789	Bull trout are an endemic species of char widely distributed within BC. This project seeks to address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout within BC, especially within the core area of the Lower Fraser Ecological Drainage Unit. Little information exists on bull trout populations in this area and the population is thought to be small (< 200 adults). Linear development, including forestry and gas/oil pipelines, is considered to be a threat in the area.	\$5,000	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-505-4116 greg.andrusak@gov.bc.ca
Exploring Coastal Sand Dune Restoration in Boundary Bay	2-790	This seed funding will be used to scope the larger project and engage with other agencies that have trialed sand dune restoration, allowing for the refinement of restoration techniques. Engaging with First Nations will improve understanding of support for the project and collaboration will ensure a well-designed project is put forward to restore the sand dune ecosystem.	\$4,988	Natasha Wilbrink Ducks Unlimited Canada n_wilbrink@ducks.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Applying Sonar Technology to Detailed Mapping of Juvenile Sturgeon Habitat	2-792	The goals of the study are to explore the application of hydroacoustic technology to provide detailed habitat data (depth, slope, substrate, physical structure) of areas utilized by Lower Fraser River juvenile White Sturgeon and to complement HCTF project 2-715 (previous page) in the Pitt River watershed. Data collected will aim to provide detailed mapping and inform habitat suitability models for juvenile sturgeon.	\$5,000	Dani Ramos-Espinoza InStream Fisheries Research Inc. 778-893-8250 dani@instream.net



2-715: Juvenile White Sturgeon Critical Habitat in the Pitt River Watershed

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Headquarters	3-60	Maintenance of Menzies Lake's aeration system.	\$4,000	Andrew Klassen BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-371-6237 Andrew.Klassen@gov.bc.ca
Fisheries O&M - Thompson-Nicola	3-94	Operation and maintenance of existing lake aeration, stream diversions, outlet fence, riparian fencing, open diversion ditches, and dam structures that enhance the angling opportunities of high-use lakes within the Thompson-Nicola region.	\$73,500	Andrew Klassen BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-371-6237 Andrew.Klassen@gov.bc.ca
Fisheries O&M - Bonaparte	3-154	Operation and maintenance of the Bonaparte Fishway and the Bonaparte Lake Dam.	\$30,000	Robert G. Bison BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-371-6244 Robert.Bison@gov.bc.ca
Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation	3-251	This project is for the continued monitoring of abundance, productivity and conservation status for wild Interior Fraser steelhead which includes populations in the Thompson and Chilcotin watersheds among Bridge, Seton, Stein, and Nahatlatch watersheds. It will provide scientific knowledge to inform provincial, federal, and First Nation fisheries management planning, processes, and decisions for conservation and responsible use, and encourage coordination of management between provincial and federal fisheries agencies and First Nations.	\$71,598	Robert Bison BC Ministry of Forests 250-312-6632 Robert.Bison@gov.bc.ca
Williamson's Sapsucker Habitat Enhancement, Merritt Area	3-412	In 2020-2022, 290 wildlife trees were created for Williamson's Sapsuckers using fungal inoculation and mechanical methods. In 2024, as many trees as possible will be assessed during the breeding season to see if Williamson's Sapsuckers or other wildlife are using the trees.	\$15,858	Kristen Mancuso Okanagan Nation Alliance 250-859-3976 kmancuso@syilx.org
Fraser River Bighorns: Fraser East Disease Assessment and Herd Recovery	3-419	This year the project will test and remove adult ewes in chronically sick herds that are shedding the respiratory bacteria <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> (M.ovi) along the east side of the Fraser River study area. It will also conduct extensive ground and aerial lamb counts with the involvement of Indigenous communities and sample a minimum of 25% of lambs/yearlings (born post-treatment) in the prior-year treatment bands to test for the presence and exposure to M.ovi within the young cohort of bighorns that were born post-treatment.	\$47,736	Jeremy Ayotte Phyla Biological Consulting Inc 250-804-3513 jeremy.ayotte@gmail.com
Grassland Small Mammal Communities: Historic Trends and Future Prospects	3-453	Within BC's threatened semi-arid grassland ecosystem, small mammal communities play a critical role in acting as a prey base for a wide range of species at risk including raptors, snakes, owls, badgers, and other predators. This project will conduct a thorough and timely analysis of a 26-year data set on small mammal and vegetation communities within the grasslands, providing a benchmark managing our grassland ecosystems as ecological and climatic shifts continue in the future.	\$45,890	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University 250-828-5456 klarsen@tru.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Developing a Protocol for Monitoring Mixed-Species Bat Roosts	3-466	This project will develop simple and affordable methods for determining the presence and ratios of Little Brown and Yuma Myotis in mixed-species bat roosts. This will improve our ability to monitor bat populations by species, assess differential impacts of disease on each species, and ultimately plan species-specific and targeted conservation actions.	\$50,749	Mandy Kellner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-837-1376 Mandy.kellner@gov.bc.ca
Simpcw Ském' cis (Grizzly Bear) Monitoring and Connectivity Study	3-471	This Indigenous-led initiative will assess grizzly bear populations in the Columbia-Shuswap and their connectivity with bears from other parts of Simpcw Territory. Employing DNA analysis via hair sample collection and habitat evaluations, this study will yield insights into grizzly bear behaviors, population dynamics, and habitat utilization. With these data, the study will inform Indigenous conservation and management strategies for grizzly bear populations and their ecosystems.	\$5,000	Ceryne Staples Estsek' Environmental LLP 819-598-3897 cstaples@simpcwresourcesgroup.com
Bull Trout within Simpcwúl' ecw	3-472	This seed funding will develop a more detailed plan and study design for a project aimed at enhancing the understanding of bull trout habitat, presence, and movement within Simpcwúl' ecw's (Simpcw territory) North Thompson watershed, especially within tributaries of significance to Simpcw. Simpcw First Nation and Estsek' Environmental Services will conduct a desktop analysis to provide preliminary information within the study area, which will be followed by field work and sampling.	\$4,945	Alexandras Terrick Estsek Environmental Services Ltd. aterrick@simpcwresourcesgroup.com
Ratchford-Myoff	3-473	This project, a collaboration between Splatsin's Yucwmenlucwu and the Adams Lake Band, will benefit the Columbia North and Groundhog caribou subpopulations through the restoration of approximately 22.8 kilometers of forest resource road in one road network. It will complete on-the-ground field investigations, restoration prescription development, and collection of baseline (i.e., pre-construction) vegetation data.	\$62,750	Corey Bird Yucwmenlucwu 250-838-0775 corey.bird@splatsindc.com
Upper Seymour	3-474	This project will benefit the Columbia North and Groundhog caribou subpopulations through the restoration of approximately 23.6 kilometers of forest resource road in one road network. It will complete on-the-ground field investigations, restoration prescription development, and collection of baseline vegetation data. This project brings experiences learned from the Bigmouth and Mica Creek restoration projects to aid in the development of restoration strategies targeted at reducing predator movement and creating/enhancing growing conditions.	\$57,040	Corey Bird Yucwmenlucwu 250-838-0775 corey.bird@splatsindc.com



3-412: Williamson's Sapsucker Habitat Enhancement

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Kootenay	4-64	Operation and maintenance of two West Kootenay kokanee spawning channels which support a genetically unique strain of kokanee, and associated ecosystem and sport fishery benefits.	\$58,000	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-671-9187 molly.teather@gov.bc.ca
Gerrard Rainbow Trout Critical Monitoring	4-248	The purpose of this project is to monitor the conservation status of the Gerrard stock of a rare ecotype of rainbow trout that supports a socially and economically significant recreational fishery. The project focuses on four key areas: (1) monitor escapement, (2) monitor quality of critical habitat for Gerrard rainbow trout, (3) estimate fishing effort and harvest of Gerrard rainbow trout for management decisions, and (4) educate public and protect Gerrard rainbow trout spawners through presence at spawning site.	\$36,000*	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-671-9187 molly.teather@gov.bc.ca
Kootenay Conservation Program: Fostering a Collaborative Landscape Approach	4-345	The goal of this project is to foster a collaborative approach to conservation in the Kootenays through a partnership of over 80 organizations. This project includes four components: 1) Strengthening the delivery and coordination of stewardship activities to promote a networked approach to landscape-scale conservation; 2) Ensuring coordinated securement of highest priority private properties by applying ranking criteria that include landscape linkage and climate change attributes; 3) Increasing knowledge of conservation practitioners by sharing leading-edge information and expertise; and 4) Building financial capacity through the expansion of the Local Conservation Fund service.	\$30,000	Juliet Craig The Nature Trust of BC 250-352-2260 juliet@kootenayconservation.ca
Kootenay Region River Guardian Program	4-444	This project will facilitate River Guardian presence in eight Kootenay Region classified watersheds with the objective to maintain or improve the quality of angling in these systems and protect native sport fish populations. River Guardians will provide a compliance presence, educate the public, anglers and other stakeholders, and collect angler survey data and biological/inventory data.	\$130,500	Kevin Heidt BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-489-8556 Kevin.Heidt@gov.bc.ca
Determination of Gerrard Rainbow Trout Productivity at Low Abundance	4-539	This project will obtain critical information on the stock productivity parameter and define important biological reference points for the conservation and management of the Gerrard Rainbow Trout population on Kootenay Lake. In addition, the formation will be critical for assisting with the recovery efforts on Kootenay Lake associated with the complete collapse of the Kokanee population.	\$59,381	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Forests 250-505-4116 greg.andrusak@shaw.ca
Determination of Bull Trout Stock Productivity at Low Abundance	4-555	This project will obtain critical information on the stock productivity parameter for bull trout at low stock abundance. The information is vital in defining important biological reference points for the conservation and management of this species on Kootenay Lake. Due to the extenuating circumstances associated with the collapse of the Kokanee population on Kootenay Lake, continuing the bull trout monitoring is considered a high priority for the region.	\$56,880	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Forests 250-505-4116 greg.andrusak@gov.bc.ca
Central Selkirk Caribou Maternity Pen	4-609	The Central Selkirk Maternity Pen project is a partnership between the Arrow Lake Caribou Society and the BC Caribou Program. A suite of recovery actions have been implemented in the Central Selkirk sub-population over the past few years in an attempt to avert extirpation. The maternity pen project is the herd's best chance to achieve population growth through improving calf survival.	\$35,000	Aaron Reid BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-671-9171 aaron.reid@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Elk Valley West Bighorn Sheep Population Dynamics and Habitat Condition	4-611	The bighorn sheep estimates in the Elk Valley West population management unit during the winter 2020 and 2022 surveys were among the lowest recorded, approximately 60% of the population objective and the continuation of a 10-year low. The causes of the decline are unknown; increased predator numbers, high numbers of concurrent mountain goats, climate change-induced weather events, and changes in habitat are possible factors. This study will identify survival rates and causes of mortality, seasonal range use and movement corridors, and health sampling, and will evaluate existing habitat to provide information to help make informed wildlife management decisions.	\$48,500	Sam Medcalf Sparwood and District Fish & Wildlife Association 250-425-5531 smedcalf83@hotmail.com
Safe Passages for Wildlife in the Southern Canadian Rockies	4-616	Over the past 3 years, there has been ongoing highway mitigation work on Highway 3 in the Elk Valley, and a wildlife overpass is projected to be built by fall 2024 in Radium Hot Springs. This project aims to monitor the effectiveness of these underpasses, overpasses, and associated fencing in reducing wildlife collisions and providing safe and effective passages across these major roadways.	\$37,592*	Emily Chow BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-420-6325 Emily.Chow@gov.bc.ca
Upper Elk Valley Invasive Plant Management	4-618	The goal of this project is to minimize and contain the presence of invasive plant species and maintain the biodiversity and ecological function of the upper Elk Valley, with the focus being on bighorn sheep habitat and other high-value ungulate range. The treatment of invasive species concurrent with habitat enhancement activities would reduce the spread of invasive plants into new areas and consequential reduction in forage quality. This project will continue to work with First Nations, land managers, and user groups to implement invasive plant control.	\$41,392	Katie Reid East Kootenay Invasive Species Council 250-423-0198 Katie@ekisc.com
Kicking Horse Canyon Habitat Enhancement Project	4-631	This multi-year project will enhance approximately 112 ha of elk winter range in the Upper Kicking Horse Canyon, near the Yoho National Park boundary. Enhancement work will involve the thinning of immature forest to promote forage growth, allow for ease of elk movement, increase elk predator detection, and improve forest structure for snow interception. The main goal is to increase the amount of productive winter habitat for elk in this important area on the landscape.	\$83,380	Brian Gustafson Golden District Rod and Gun Club 250-344-1188 brian@cirque-ecological.ca
Elk Valley Cottonwood Restoration	4-636	Cottonwood forest is a critical floodplain ecosystem in the Elk River, but almost half was lost to urban development, agriculture, resource extraction, and industrial development. Through this project, ERA staff and volunteers will plant 5,000 cottonwood trees and native plants this year in riparian and floodplain habitats. When mature, these trees will confer vital ecological services: refuge and nutrients for sensitive species (e.g. Westslope cutthroat trout and grizzly bears), improved landscape connectivity and biodiversity, natural streambank erosion protection, and decreased flood impacts in downstream communities.	\$35,241	Chad Hughes Elk River Watershed Alliance 250-423-0344 chad@elkriveralliance.ca
Evaluation of the Upper St. Mary River Bull Trout Population	4-638	The purpose of this project is to better understand bull trout population dynamics in the upper St. Mary River system, provide point in time population/inventory data, establish critical habitats, and inventory indexes and gather genetic samples to evaluate the population and determine relationships within the overall upper Kootenay River metapopulation. Ultimately, this project will inform fisheries management decisions to ensure effective long-term conservation measures and a balance between species sustainability, angler opportunity and quality of the fishery.	\$20,000	Kevin Heidt BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-420-6374 kevin.heidt@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Reimagining the Threads that Bind Wildlife Conservation to Farming	4-664	This project is a producer-driven program that advocates with domestic sheep and goat producers to inform, test to determine the prevalence of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> (M.ovi), and assess the risk to Bighorn sheep. Using a peer-to-peer approach and the introduction of incentives and educational workshops, the goal is to enlist farmers and add their actions to conserve wild sheep and their habitats. Our vision is to bring local producers and wildlife advocates together to promote both healthy domestic and wild sheep across the province of British Columbia.	\$29,600	Jennifer Bowes Wild Sheep Society of BC 250-219-9443 jwssbowes@gmail.com
East Kootenay Burbot Population Assessments	4-685	This project seeks to better understand burbot population limiters in the Upper Kootenay and Upper Columbia watersheds utilizing cod trapping, acoustic tagging, radio tagging, temperature monitoring, and genetic studies. Understanding current status, spawning locations, migrations, and genetic diversity will inform recovery actions of these declining populations.	\$99,500	Heather Lamson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-421-6338 heather.lamson@gov.bc.ca
Galton Range Invasive Plant Management	4-686	This project will conduct habitat-based invasive species management in the Galton Mountain Range in collaboration with First Nations and land managers. The goal is to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in high-value wildlife habitat using a variety of treatment methods, and public outreach and education. The treatment of invasive species concurrent with habitat enhancement activities would reduce the spread of invasive plants into new areas and consequential reduction in forage quality.	\$28,592	Katie Reid East Kootenay Invasive Species Council 250-423-0198 katie@ekisc.com
Ducks Unlimited Canada Restoration and Stewardship Partnership Program	4-688	In 2024-2025, the program will safeguard wetland habitat at Mayook Marsh near Cranbrook for the benefit of blue-listed Western Painted Turtle, nesting trumpeter swan, and a wide diversity of waterfowl, bat, and other wildlife species by upgrading water control infrastructure maintaining the habitat. Restoration design for three other wetland projects will be finalized and three additional projects prioritized to move to final design in 2025-2026.	\$250,000	Sarah Nathan Ducks Unlimited Canada 778-888-1706 s_nathan@ducks.ca
Enhancement of Western Painted Turtle Basking Log Habitat at Erie Lake	4-700	This project will increase basking log habitat for the blue-listed Western Painted Turtle (<i>Chrysemys picta</i>) by installing anchored cedar logs in open water to minimize predation. Basking is a requirement of turtles for thermoregulation to effectively forage and mate as well as reducing external parasites through drying of the shell. Nesting and road mortality surveys will also be conducted to explore mitigation options for road mortalities of migrating turtles during spawning.	\$38,222	Chris Harkness Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society 236-972-6800 chris@streamkeepers.bc.ca
Rehabilitating Roads for the Columbia North Herd: Shuswap Band's Caribou Restoration Project	4-711	The Shuswap Band's Caribou Restoration Project is a multi-year initiative, spanning from 2024 to 2027, focused on restoring approximately 105 km of roads within the habitat of the Columbia North Southern Mountain Caribou herd.	\$70,150	Steve Murphy Shuswap First Nation 778-586-7591 smurphy@shuswapband.ca



4-638: Evaluation of the Upper St. Mary River Bull Trout Population

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
O&M - Cariboo	5-44	This program will enhance fisheries through lake aeration on Skulow, Irish and Simon lake; operation and maintenance of Haines Cr diversion to the 11 sister lakes; and dams, weirs, and fish passage restoration on other lakes and streams.	\$56,500	Scott Horley BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-302-5817 Scott.Horley@gov.bc.ca
Mid Fraser River Sturgeon Assessment	5-196	This is a five-year study focused on filling knowledge gaps of sturgeon habitat use and behavior in the mid-Fraser. Specifically, this study will improve understanding of stock structure, juvenile recruitment, and adult habitat use in northern sections of the mid-Fraser.	\$33,000	Lynn Avis BC Ministry of Forests 250-706-6253 lynn.avis@gov.bc.ca
Quality Waters Strategy - Cariboo Region	5-239	The Dean River guardian program will collect the necessary creel information to administer the Dean River draw and implement the Dean River angling management plan. River guardians on the Chilcotin River will monitor steelhead fisheries closure due to extreme conservation concerns.	\$94,101	Lee Williston BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-398-4696 lee.williston@gov.bc.ca
Implementation of Cariboo Core Area Bull Trout Monitoring	5-286	This project will implement recommendations from the Middle and Upper Fraser Bull Trout Management Plan. The overall purpose is to achieve desired outcomes that support sustainable opportunity (angling) and long-term stock conservation.	\$47,700	Lynn Avis BC Ministry of Forests 250-706-6253 lynn.avis@gov.bc.ca
Dean River Steelhead Stock Assessment Project	5-327	Although the Dean River hosts one of the world's most popular steelhead sport fisheries, detailed population assessment has been lacking. This project looks to apply telemetry, mark-recapture, and adult counts to evaluate if conservation measures are needed. This study will also prescribe a cost-effective monitoring plan to ensure that required information is collected to implement necessary management actions if the stock does decline to unsustainable levels	\$117,972	Russell Bobrowski BC Ministry of Forests 250-398-4258 russell.bobrowski@gov.bc.ca
Big Bar Slide Sturgeon Assessment	5-332	This project will evaluate sturgeon movement patterns across the Big Bar slide to inform fish passage structure design. Key knowledge gaps on sturgeon habitat use and behavior in the Mid-Fraser will also be addressed. The study will improve understanding of migration routes and timing between rkm 338 and rkm 482, and identify critical overwintering habitat.	\$25,000	Lynn Avis BC Ministry of Forests 250-706-6253 lynn.avis@gov.bc.ca
Lake Trout Reward Tags and Acoustic Telemetry - Horse Lake	5-339	This project will look to continue acoustic tracking and paying cash rewards for lake trout tagged in Horse Lake. Data collected from this project will improve statistical confidence in the sustainable fishing rate benchmark which will help evaluate the status of lake trout throughout their range and also strengthen conclusions that lake trout in many lakes in BC's Central Interior were over-exploited and in need of more conservative harvest restrictions to ensure long-term sustainability.	\$3,493	Russell Bobrowski BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-398-4256 russell.bobrowski@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Identifying Habitat Factors Affecting Fisher Reproductive Output in Southcentral BC	5-349	This project relates habitat quality to the reproductive output of an elusive at-risk mesocarnivore. The Columbian population of fishers, in central BC, is declining at an alarming rate with a mean reproductive output half that of their Boreal counterparts. Elucidating the biological and ecological mechanisms that make up this gap is imperative to ensure land and resource managers make the appropriate evidence-based decisions to recover Columbian fishers.	\$40,579	Shannon Werden Thompson Rivers University (Karl Larsen Research Center) 778-991-9442 Shannonwerden@gmail.com
Central Interior Burbot Exploitation Project	5-356	This project will provide an assessment of the status of burbot in three popular fisheries in BC's Central Interior with a tag/telemetry study of burbot populations in Sulphurous Lake in conjunction with a CPUE mark/recapture study on Horse and Bridge Lake. This will fill valuable data gaps in a wild fish population that can easily be over-exploited by evaluating mortality estimates, current exploitation levels, and stock densities, and establish an assessment plan to sustain healthy burbot populations.	\$44,074	Scott Horley BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-302-5817 scott.horley@gov.bc.ca
Predator-Prey Dynamics of Cougars, Caribou, and Feral Horses	5-358	This research examines predator-prey dynamics of cougars and caribou from the rapidly declining Itcha-Ilgachuz subpopulation in central BC. Specifically, it aims to test the hypothesis of apparent competition between caribou and feral horses, facilitated by landscape disturbance and range-expanding cougars. Further understanding of the ecology and predation dynamics of cougar will have direct implications for the recovery of woodland caribou and will assist in population or habitat management for other prey including moose, deer, and horses.	\$48,314	Chris Johnson University of Northern British Columbia 250-960-5357 chris.johnson@unbc.ca



5-327: Dean River Steelhead Stock Assessment Project

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 6: Skeena

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Restoring Whitebark Pine Ecosystems to Enhance Subalpine Bear Habitat	6-227	This will be the 12th year of a multi-partner restoration program to restore whitebark pine ecosystems for bear habitat in the Skeena Region. This year involves a seed collection and monitoring program that includes (1) seed collection from known rust-resistant trees and seeking out other potential rust-resistant trees; (2) contributing seed to blister rust-resistant screening and tree orchard programs; (3) coordinating an expanding planting program; (4) collaborating with provincial, federal and First Nation partners in capturing wildlife use and habitat values of whitebark pine ecosystems (5) increasing the exposure and outreach of our restoration program; and (6) serving as a hub for whitebark pine information and action in northern BC.	\$66,947	Alana Clason Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management 250-877-2418 alana.clason@bvcentre.ca
Quality Waters Strategy - Skeena	6-268	This project includes fishery development and planning activities on the Bulkley, Kispiox, and Morice Rivers, including a review of angler effort targets and the feasibility of lottery booking systems. It also includes stock assessment activities on the Skeena, Kitwanga, and Bulkley Rivers.	\$157,500	Kenji Miyazaki BC Ministry of Forests 250 847-7292 Kenji.Miyazaki@gov.bc.ca
Tweedsmuir Caribou Winter Range - Chelaslie Road Restoration	6-283	This project will benefit the Tweedsmuir–Entiako caribou herd by using functional and ecological restoration techniques to restore 80+ km of road and of fire guard linear features in high-value, low-elevation winter range with the goal of increasing intact caribou habitat and reducing predator-prey interactions through decreasing predator and human access.	\$89,181	Carlie Quinn BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250.877.0095 Carlie.Quinn@gov.bc.ca
Skeena Fish Passage Restoration	6-288	This project aims to improve fish passage connectivity in the Skeena region by supporting the replacement or removal of structures that block fish movement at stream crossings (culverts). Dedicated to building restoration capacity, it involves mentoring various partners and using creative data collection and communication methods to empower a wide range of stakeholders. Activities involve planning, conducting assessments for fish passage and habitat, fish sampling, utilizing UAV mapping, reporting, and skillfully monitoring restoration effectiveness both before and after replacing structures.	\$56,380	Allan Irvine Society for Ecosystem Restoration Northern British Columbia 250-777-1518 al@newgraphenvironment.com
Skeena Region Fluvial Char Baselines	6-292	This project seeks to identify species composition, geographical distribution, and exploitation rates of fluvial chars (Bull Trout and Dolly Varden) in various fisheries in the lower Nass and middle Skeena Rivers using high reward floy tagging, radio tagging, genetic sampling, and creel surveying.	\$55,000	Kris Maier BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-643-7290 Kris.Maier@gov.bc.ca
Atlin East Sheep Movement Monitoring & Baseline Health Assessment	6-299	The Taku River Tlingit First Nations and Province of BC have partnered to understand habitat use, movement ecology, and survival of Tawéi (Tlingit word for thornhorn sheep) near Atlin; traditional knowledge indicates that Tawéi have undergone population declines and habitat use changes in traditional subsistence harvest areas. This research will also clarify the potential effects of a proposed hydro-dam and build on traditional and western science on the Atlin East herd that supports collaborative and sustainable stewardship of Tawéi.	\$37,909	Shannon Whelan Taku Wildlife 250-651-7900 wildlife.coordinator@gov.trtfn.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 6: Skeena

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Whitesail	6-306	This project will functionally and ecologically restore approximately 86 km of roads to reduce predator and human access within the Whitesail Priority Restoration Area for the Tweedsmuir-Entiako caribou herd, decreasing road density and creating 7176 ha of near-contiguous low-elevation summer habitat from the shoreline of Whitesail Reach to intact no-harvest areas.	\$53,680	Kari Stuart-Smith Canfor 250-426-9380 kari.stuart-smith@canfor.com
Genetic Diversity and Distribution of Coastal Wolves in Northern British Columbia	6-316	This project aims to characterize the genetic diversity and population structure of coastal wolves in Northern BC and identify potential geographical barriers to movement to gain a better understanding of the genetic connectivity among populations.	\$15,000	Mark Boyce The Governors of the University of Alberta 780-492-0081 boyce@ualberta.ca
Coastal Cutthroat Trout Spawning Habitat Assessment of Hatchery Creek	6-325	The goal of this project is to assess the current utilization of Hatchery Creek by coastal cutthroat trout (CCT) and conduct a spawning habitat assessment to develop a restoration plan for future implementation. The assessment will include using an underwater camera to count adult CCT migrating up Hatchery Creek, surveying to identify and map current spawning habitat and limitations, and minnow trapping the entire creek with a focus on fish passage to determine current spawning success.	\$5,000	Rachel Sweezy Lakelse Watershed Stewardship Society 250-638-0337 watershedcoordinator.lakelse@gmail.com



6-227: Restoring Whitebark Pine Ecosystems to Enhance Subalpine Bear Habitat

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Peace	7-98	Operation & Maintenance will include winter aeration of Inga and Sundance Lakes, educational trips to the Inga Lake spawning channel, Swan Lake fishway maintenance, and Stewart Lake weir maintenance.	\$23,500	Kristen Peck BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Kristen.Peck@gov.bc.ca
Mule Deer Monitoring in Vanderhoof Area	7-508	Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club will provide bi-annual mule deer monitoring ground transect surveys in the Nechako Valley. These surveys will provide current conditions, long-term data sets indicating trends, and annual variability due to weather conditions (i.e., winter die-offs), inform management decisions, and provide recommendations using current trend data to implement appropriate hunting seasons.	\$3,462	David Zurevinski Nechako Valley Sporting Association - Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club 250-944-0432 david.zurevinski@gmail.com
Elk Migration and Sightability Correction Factor trials in central BC	7-518	Collared female elk in the Vanderhoof agricultural area will be monitored to determine behavior, habitat selection, migratory strategies, patterns, and pathways. Collars will enable wildlife managers to conduct mark-resight surveys to establish sightability correction factors for elk in northern BC, which will be applied to future abundance estimates. Data on movement and habitat selection will enable the assessment of options to mitigate conflict with agricultural producers.	\$90,000	Matt Scheideman BC Ministry of Forests 250-649-4279 matthew.scheideman@gov.bc.ca
Prescribed Burns for Wild Sheep Enhancement in Northeastern BC	7-540	This project will restore and enhance sheep habitat in current and historical range to support and grow healthy sheep populations. Non-forested habitats, including natural subalpine grasslands and grassland-shrub complexes, will be treated with prescribed fire to increase the quantity and quality of forage, increase the traversability of sites by removing blow down and dense shrubs, and decrease vertical structure to meet the seasonal foraging requirements of wild sheep.	\$149,775	Alicia Woods Ridgeline Wildlife Enhancement Inc. 250-262-9630 alicia@ridgelinewildlife.ca
Peck Creek-Upper Carbon	7-543	This project has, in previous years, applied in functional and ecological treatments on roads, contributing to 1,481 ha of intact habitat within the Klinse-Za herd range. In this project year, Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society will conduct post-treatment monitoring of treatment effectiveness.	\$33,338	Tamara Dokkie Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society 250-788-3663 Tamara.Dokkie@westmo.org
Callazon-Clearwater Valley: 4000 and 3800 Roads	7-554	This project will use functional and ecological restoration techniques to add an additional 2,358ha to intact areas of habitat within the Klinse-Za herd range.	\$183,906	Tamara Dokkie Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society 250-788-3663 Tamara.Dokkie@westmo.org
Stone's Sheep Seasonal Range Use in the Omineca Region	7-570	Stone's sheep are an iconic northern wildlife species with significant socioeconomic, cultural, and ecological value. Nevertheless, in parts of their range, critical knowledge gaps compromise effective conservation and management. Sheep ranges in BC's Omineca Region constitute the south-central portion of global Stone's sheep range and are generally poorly understood. This project aims to define herd boundaries and habitat selection in the Tatlatui, Swannel, and Russel ranges to better monitor and evaluate population trends, harvest pressure, and habitat management options.	\$25,256	Robin Routledge Wild Sheep Society of BC 604-690-9555 Robin.wssbc@gmail.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Determining Mechanisms of Decline of the Robson Valley Mountain Goats	7-585	Mountain goats are an iconic species in British Columbia, but declines have been detected across much of their range including the Robson Valley in eastern BC. Hunter harvest does not appear to be the primary mechanism of decline in the Robson Valley, therefore other mechanism(s) of decline must be assessed to provide recommendations for goat conservation and management. This project aims to understand survival, recruitment, causes of mortality, movement, and sightability of the Robson Valley goat population, and compare to previous work conducted in 1997-99 to determine population limiting factors and provide management recommendations.	\$70,200	Kara MacAulay BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-645-9235 kara.macaulay@gov.bc.ca
Effects of Landscape Change on Moose Health in Central BC	7-588	This project aims to identify habitat variables associated with the transmission of parasites to moose and to identify key trace nutrients associated with moose immune function, survival, and pregnancy. It will draw on existing data from the ongoing Provincial Moose Research Program and will supplement these data with field surveys and lab analyses to provide further information about the effects of forest management and climate change on moose health and population trends.	\$81,170	Heather Bryan University of Northern British Columbia 250-960-5861 Heather.bryan@unbc.ca
Habitat Selection and Survival of Porcupines in Northcentral BC	7-597	North American porcupines are one of the most abundant large rodents in Canada. They function as ecosystem engineers, are culturally important, and sometimes cause damage to property, yet, surprisingly few studies have explored the ecology of these adaptable species. This project will use GPS collars to track up to 24 porcupines in a remote area of north-central BC to better understand the factors that limit their survival.	\$59,986	Krista Sittler Wildex Consulting Ltd. 250-640-1618 krista@wildex.ca
Sitlika Creek Fish Passage Monitoring and Channel Repairs	7-598	This project will repair damage to a fish passage channel on Sitlika Creek, which contains high-quality habitat for kokanee, Bull Trout, and large-bodied, piscivorous Rainbow Trout - each of which supports sport and sustenance fisheries and economic activity important to Takla Nation - following 2022 spring flooding. The channel was built the previous summer to restore fish passage through an inactive railway that has been fragmenting habitat for more than 40 years.	\$35,076	Nicolas Lapointe Canadian Wildlife Federation 613-599-9594 nlapointe@cwf-fcf.org
Assessing Seasonal Mountain Goat Survey Effectiveness	7-599	Mountain goats are an iconic wildlife species in British Columbia with multiple significant values. Management relies on accurate population estimates that follow standards of total count aerial surveys in early/midsummer for interior goat populations. Goat sightability is generally low (around 65%) and influenced by behaviour and weather conditions. Winter surveys have been suggested as an approach to increase sightability and provide efficiencies in monitoring multiple mountain ungulate species simultaneously. The approach remains untested, however. This project aims to compare winter, summer, and fall survey timing to investigate seasonal changes in goat detection.	\$60,300	Morgan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-649-4392 Morgan.anderson@gov.bc.ca
Saik'uz Road Rehabilitation for Moose Habitat Enhancement	7-600	This project will improve moose habitat by reducing local road densities through road rehabilitation activities within Saik'uz First Nation's traditional territory.	\$53,689	Brandon Geldart Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern British Columbia 250-301-7996 brandon.geldart@sernbc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Swannell River Valley	7-603	This project aims to annually restore 10 kilometers of roads in the Swannell River Valley, an area identified as containing low-elevation core habitat for the Chase Caribou, with the goal of reducing predator movement.	\$213,087	Sean Rapai Chu Cho Environmental 250-612-8043 sean@chuchoenvironmental.com



Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Okanagan	8-124	This project covers Operations and Maintenance of fisheries in the Okanagan Region. The key activities are the aeration operation of Burnell, Kidd, Yellow, Gardom, and Martins Lakes; dam maintenance on 14 Okanagan region lakes with conservation water licenses; and maintenance of kokanee (and rainbow) spawning habitat: Mission Creek spawning channel maintenance, Vaseux Creek fishway maintenance, Peachland Creek restoration structure maintenance and gravel scarification, Vernon creeks restoration structure maintenance.	\$87,000	Tara White BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 250-490-2287 tara.white@gov.bc.ca
Mission Creek Restoration Initiative – Restoration Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring	8-320	This project aims to address declining kokanee populations and habitat degradation concerns in Mission Creek. This is the first step in implementing the Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan which was compiled in 2022. This year's focus includes planning and design for a floodplain expansion project within the footprint of the 2023/24 riffle project and the development of property-specific restoration designs to support future property securement and restoration.	\$56,813	Steven Matthews BC Conservation Foundation 250-809-9840 matthewsenvconsulting@gmail.com
Restoring Riparian Cottonwood of the Kettle River for Species at Risk	8-433	The riparian black cottonwood forests of the Kettle River Watershed are among the rarest ecosystems in the province and are associated with many species at risk. Stewardship actions on both private and public land is necessary for the conservation of this ecosystem and the species that rely on it. Restoration work in this ecosystem provides future habitat and a tool for educating landowners and land managers on its importance.	\$30,480	Jenny Coleshill Granby Wilderness Society 250-442-5088 jenny.coleshill@gmail.com
Enhancement of Winter Range Habitat for Mule Deer in Douglas-fir Forests - Phase 2	8-452	This habitat enhancement project is designed to investigate a range of harvesting options in mule deer winter range in the Bald Range west of Summerland. The goal is to maintain overstory cover and stimulate forage production concurrently. The project area is approximately 900 ha and a range of harvesting regimes with replicated openings are being tested.	\$22,730	Thomas Sullivan Applied Mammal Research Institute 250-494-7160 tom@appliedmammal.com
Upper Shuswap River Drainage Bull Trout Assessment	8-466	The current status of bull trout in the Upper Shuswap River drainage is unknown. Recent anecdotal evidence, and limited historical data, suggests that the bull trout population may be in decline. This project will assess the status of the bull trout population in the Upper Shuswap drainage (Sugar Lake) and identify appropriate management options and angling regulations to address conservation concerns and maintain a sustainable quality fishery.	\$57,737	Tara White BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-622-6839 Tara.White@gov.bc.ca
Upper Shuswap Resistivity Counter to Estimate Bull Trout Abundance	8-498	The goal of this project is to install a resistivity counter in the Upper Shuswap River above Sugar Lake to monitor the adfluvial bull trout population migration upstream to the spawning grounds as well as post-spawned and sub-adult bull trout migration downstream to Sugar Lake. The resistivity counter will be used to provide independent estimates of spawn timing, duration, and spawner abundance of adult bull trout, as well as additional data on the movement patterns of adult and subadult bull trout.	\$93,615	Daniel Ramos-Espinoza InStream Fisheries Research Inc. 604-428-8819 dani@instream.net
Owl Habitat Suitability in Recently Burned Areas	8-501	This project will evaluate how large wildfires affect the distribution of owls in the Thompson-Okanagan region. Specifically, it will determine which owl species are associated with forest attributes characteristic of different stages of post-fire regrowth through acoustic surveys, nest searches, pellet dissection, and vegetation surveys. Results will inform land management as to which features of post-fire forests should be maintained to promote recolonization and long-term persistence of owls.	\$66,401	Karen Hodges The University of British Columbia 250-807-8763 karen.hodges@ubc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Resilience of Forest-Floor Small Mammals to Restoration of MPB-Damaged Forest	8-502	There is a demand for more progressive restoration directives to regenerate forest ecosystems impacted by harvesting, wildfire, and particularly mountain pine beetle (MPB) in BC. Restoration by stand thinning may grow large trees that provide suitable habitat for various wildlife species. Forest-floor small mammals will provide a measure of success of this approach at 30 years post-thinning of lodgepole pine stands that have regenerated after an MPB outbreak.	\$27,000	Thomas Sullivan Applied Mammal Research Institute 250-494-7160 tom@appliedmammal.com
Wood Lake Kokanee Population Assessment and Active Management	8-503	This project aims to assess the kokanee population status of Wood Lake after conservation concerns of overharvest and declines due to stochastic environmental impacts. It will evaluate the current angling regulations and identify appropriate management actions in-season to conserve native kokanee stocks and sustain a quality fishery.	\$35,492	Kristen King BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-476-8815 kristen.king@gov.bc.ca
Mission Creek Spawning Channel Intake Rebuild	8-505	The purpose of this project is to complete repairs on the Mission Creek Spawning Channel intake to maintain kokanee access and egg-to-fry survival, thereby preserving the longevity of the spawning channel.	\$295,500	Tara White BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 778-622-6839 tara.white@gov.bc.ca
Okanagan yilík*lxkn - Wild Sheep Disease Management	8-508	Several diseases and syndromes have affected and remain present in the Okanagan's Blue-listed yilík*lxkn (bighorn sheep) populations. A massive outbreak of M.ovi in 2020, Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease in 2021 and ongoing Psoroptes cuniculi have all affected the population numbers, abundance, and quality of yilík*lxkn in this region. This work will form the foundation of an Okanagan-wide disease treatment initiative by determining infection severity, disease transmission rates, lamb recruitment rates, cause-specific mortalities, and habitat use, which will lead to providing and implementing effective treatment options and information on the windows of time in which entire herds must be treated to eradicate these diseases.	\$27,125	Cailyn Glasser Okanagan Nation Alliance 250-707-0095 cglasser@syilx.org
Okanagan River Fish and Wildlife Restoration in Okanagan Falls	8-512	This project will restore a uniform, channelized river section in Okanagan Falls by backwatering one or more of the four vertical drop structures with nature-like river features. The main goal is to restore diversity, complexity, and functionality of approximately 22,000m ² of riverine habitat in the Okanagan mainstem by following a Syilx Traditional Ecological Knowledge Keepers-based vision combined with western science tools. This project takes an ecosystem-based approach, targeting multiple species including the endangered Chinook Salmon and Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel.	\$98,461	Karilyn Alex Okanagan Nation Alliance 250-707-0095 kalex@syilx.org
Cherry Ridge Habitat Enhancement Project	8-515	This habitat enhancement prescription is located within the Cherry Ridge block of the Cherryville Community Forest, which is managed by the Cherry Ridge Management Committee. The goal of the project is to enhance provincially identified Ungulate Winter Range for mule deer, and it is also an important wintering area for elk and moose.	\$21,705	Reece Allingham Cherry Ridge Management Committee 250-718-3576 rallingham@hotmail.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Are White-Tailed Deer Impeding Mule Deer Recovery?	8-517	White-tailed deer occur throughout the Okanagan, and preliminary evidence suggests their presence could be detrimental to, or at least intertwined with, the decline of mule deer. We know little regarding the factors that affect white-tailed deer survival and expansion in the region. This project will identify the specifics of migration/movement, habitat use, and survival for white-tailed deer related to landscape disturbance (e.g., fire, logging, roads, etc.), with insights tied directly to factors affecting coexistence with other species.	\$85,472	Adam Ford University of British Columbia 250-807-9773 adam.ford@ubc.ca
sməłqmí Endangered Wildlife (kínkínt' i? tmix*) Recovery	8-518	The overall goal of this project is to enhance the Ashnola ecosystem health and resiliency to benefit species at risk, wildlife, and ensure the well-being of sməłqmíx, the Syilx people of the Similkameen Valley. The Ashnola restoration project will create and restore critical habitat that has been completely lost or degraded by past logging and the 2023 forest fires. The active restoration will restore habitat and attributes that are essential to wildlife, fifteen species at risk, and aquatic species including fish.	\$100,000	Lauren Terbasket Lower Similkameen Indian Band 250-499-1940 Laurenterbasket@gmail.com
Similkameen River Culturally Significant Fish Habitat Assessment	8-519	In partnership with the Upper Similkameen Indian Band, this project seeks to better understand critical drought thresholds for culturally significant fish populations. Results from this work will directly inform Provincial water management decision-making during times of water scarcity. This work seeks to support aquatic ecosystem functioning and long-term conservation of culturally significant aquatic species.	\$5,000	Kristen King BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship kristen.king@gov.bc.ca



8-452: Enhancement of Winter Range Habitat for Mule Deer in Douglas-fir Forests