7-570: Stone's Sheep Seasonal Range Use in the Omineca Region

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

2025-2026 Approved Project List

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 13th-15th, 2025. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC supports approximately 30 events held across the province, with the aim of reducing barriers to entry for fishing and increasing 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 jenna.merth@gofishbc.com
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.	$680,000 (approval pending)	Christina Waddle BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship christina.waddle@gov.bc.ca
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.	$94,656	Katie Calon BC Conservation Foundation kcalon@bccf.com
NABat, BatCaver, and Beyond: Protecting BC's Bats	0-511	Since 2011, WCS Canada has established robust province-wide reference points for bat species distributions and relative activity, disease surveillance, evaluation of mitigation efforts and recovery targets, and identification of critical winter habitat. In 2025, WCS Canada will build on this foundation to guide efforts to reduce the impact of threats – including white-nose syndrome, climate change, wind energy development, and habitat loss – and to inform forestry practices, create and evaluate roost structures, and leverage conservation efforts in BC through expanded partnerships.	$85,126	Cori Lausen WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada clausen@wcs.org
Mitigating White-Nose Syndrome: Probiotics and Long-Term Bat Monitoring	0-536	White-nose syndrome (WNS) continues to spread in the Pacific Northwest, with the fungus that causes the disease having been detected in southern BC in 2022. Locations where bats hibernate in western North America are largely unknown, creating an urgent need for sentinel monitoring sites. WCS Canada, partnering with McMaster University and Washington Fish and Wildlife, is establishing 11 monitoring sites in the Pacific Northwest to protect significant maternity colonies and quantify the efficacy of an anti-WNS probiotic.	$80,030	Cori Lausen WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada clausen@wcs.org
Moose Responses to Fine-Scale Thermal Landscapes and Forest Harvest	0-541	This project expands on identified knowledge gaps from over a decade of moose population monitoring in interior BC and recent research highlighting the need to better understand the response of moose to a modified landscape under the pressures of forest harvest and climate change. It will build on long-term monitoring of moose and research on survival, recruitment, diet, behaviour, health, and predation to assess the risks and responses of moose in study areas characterized by large-scale forest harvest, changing wildfire regimes, unpredictable weather events, and gradual climate shifts. Outcomes are expected to inform land use practices, with a particular emphasis on effective policy and practice for forest management in a changing climate.	$70,000	Morgan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship morgan.anderson@gov.bc.ca
Quality Waters Strategy - West Coast	0-545	This project focuses on fishery information activities on the Classified Waters of the Cowichan River. These activities, such as a creel survey, aim to establish baselines of angler effort and catch, increasing the quality of information on the river fisheries and supporting engagement with stakeholders and First Nations.	$35,000	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship brendan.anderson@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
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 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.	$24,150	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship brendan.anderson@gov.bc.ca
The BC Furbearer Tissue Bank - Building a Foundation for Wildlife Conservation	0-620	The BC Trappers Association has partnered with the University of Northern BC and the provincial government 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 22 native species, providing guidance for on-the-ground habitat management, enhancement, or restoration decisions and activities.	$84,567*	Jamie Gorrell BC Trappers Association jamie.gorrell@unbc.ca
Helping Forest Licensees Conserve Fisher Habitat in Their Operations	0-627	Forest harvesting drastically affects the supply of habitat for fishers and is a primary threat facing this species in BC. Fortunately, many opportunities exist during forest management when forestry professionals can voluntarily include fisher habitat considerations into their decision-making processes and conserve important habitats. This project aims to continue and improve the delivery of our Fisher Habitat Extension Program, designed to help “habitat influencers” (i.e., those who make decisions that affect fisher habitat) maintain habitat for fishers and other furbearers during forest development.	$50,133	Rich Weir Artemis Wildlife Consultants rweir@artemiswildlife.com
Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation	0-631	This project is for the continued monitoring of abundance, productivity, and conservation status of wild Interior Fraser Steelhead. It will provide scientific knowledge to inform provincial, federal, and First Nation fisheries management planning, processes, and decisions for conservation and responsible use. The project will provide data and knowledge to encourage coordination of management between provincial and federal fisheries agencies and First Nations.	$93,426	Robert Bison BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship robert.bison@gov.bc.ca
Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol: Enabling Better Mitigation and Protection	0-634	This initiative intends to make a wetland functional assessment tool available for use in BC that is similar to functional assessment tools used in neighbouring jurisdictions. Having the Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) adapted for use in BC (WESP-BC) will benefit wetland and riparian ecosystems, as well as the fish and wildlife that rely on wetlands, by providing a standard for high-quality restoration, conservation, offsetting, and compensation situations. This project will make WESP-BC available for use in three more regions, including the Southern Interior, Central Interior, and early efforts in the Northern Boreal Mountains ecoprovince.	$119,152	Neil Fletcher The B.C. Wildlife Federation wep@bcwf.bc.ca
Northern British Columbia Fish Passage Restoration	0-636	This project aims to improve fish passage connectivity in the Skeena and Fraser regions by supporting the replacement or removal of structures that block fish movement at stream crossings (culverts). Dedicated to building restoration capacity, SERNbc is mentoring various partners and using creative data collection and communication methods to learn about ecosystem values and empower a wide range of stakeholders to take action. Activities involve planning, conducting assessments for fish passage and habitat, fish sampling, eDNA sampling, UAV mapping, reporting, and skillfully monitoring restoration effectiveness both before and after the replacement or removal of structures.	$59,760	Allan Irvine Society for Ecosystem Restoration Northern BC al@newgraphenvironment.com

Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Critical Management & Conservation Data for the Rubber Boa	0-643	This project fills a substantial knowledge gap concerning the general ecology of one of BC's least understood snakes, the Northern Rubber Boa. Although the animal has been detected across a wide swath of the province (the species' only range in Canada), the lack of fundamental ecological knowledge severely restricts informed land use planning and stewardship actions that will benefit this species. This project has been developed through a strong partnership between academic, provincial government, and Indigenous organizations, and will use a team approach to provide the first extensive and detailed study of the status, habitat use, and movement ecology of the rubber boa in Canada.	$39,382	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University klarsen@tru.ca
Quality Waters – Headquarters	0-644	This project focuses on Provincial Quality Waters Strategy (QWS) review, planning, and coordination. The activities focus on meeting with regions regarding the potential classification of rivers and a general review of priorities for QWS, updates or improvements to regional Angling Management Plans, and a review of regulations within the regions of the QWS program (e.g., Skeena and Omineca).	$2,200	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship greg.andrusak@gov.bc.ca

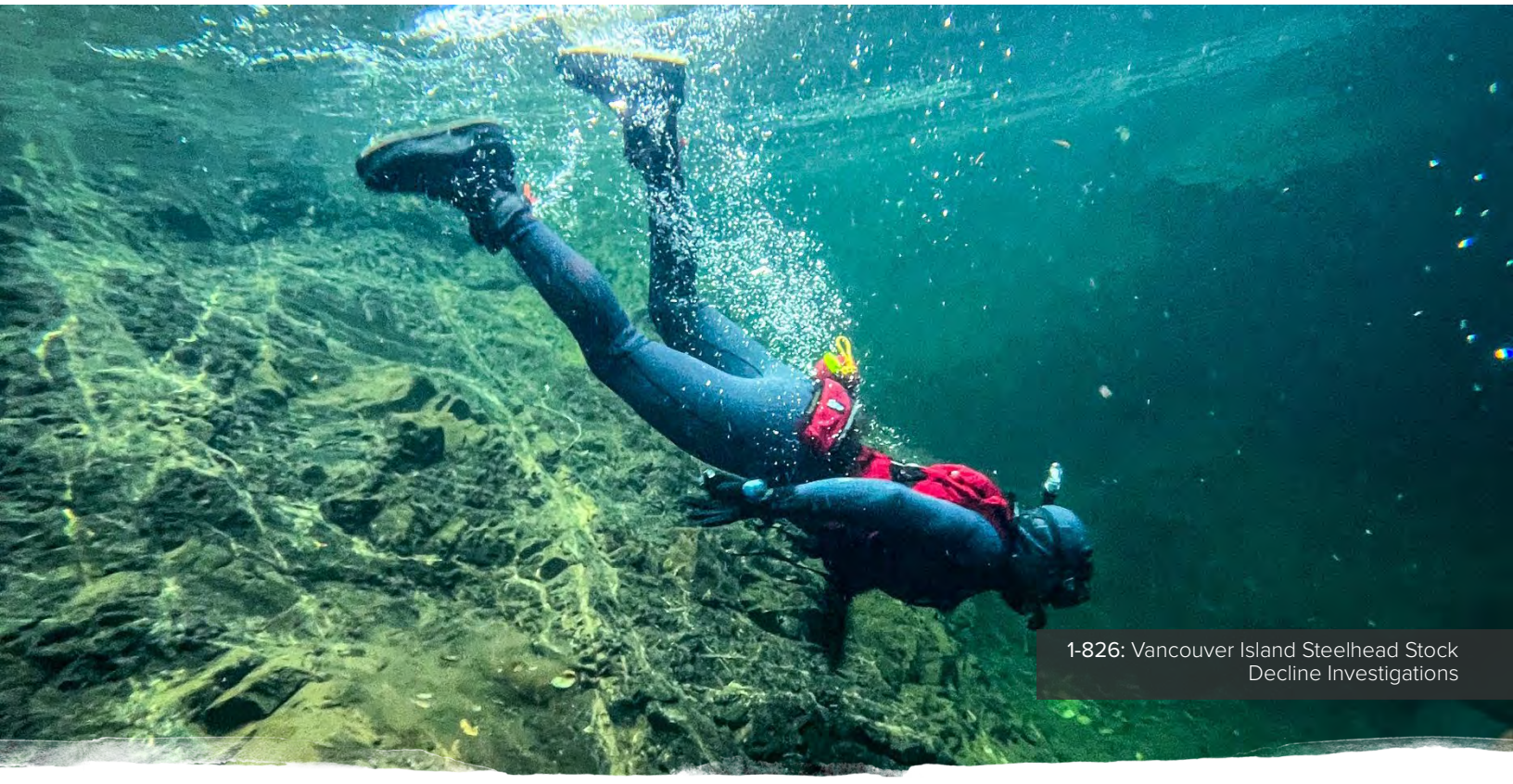
0-476: Got Bats? B.C. Community Outreach, Conservation and Citizen Science

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.	$11,510	Scott Silvestri BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship scott.silvestri@gov.bc.ca
Vancouver Island Small Lake Enrichment Program	1-644	In partnership with the Ministry of Forests and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, this program provides 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.	$56,312	Aaron Androsoff BC Conservation Foundation aandrosoff@bccf.com
Ecocultural Restoration of Vancouver Island Estuaries	1-684	This project aims to restore marsh habitat in the Campbell River, K'omoks, Little Qualicum River, Englishman, and Nanaimo River Estuaries by using Indigenous-inspired techniques (eco-cultural fencing) to prevent destructive herbivory by introduced Canada geese and planting marsh vegetation. By protecting remnant vegetation from continued overgrazing and transplanting habitat-forming Lyngbye's sedge, the project will restore estuary habitat that is of critical importance to the survival of juvenile salmonids. The estuary habitat supports shoreline stability and flood resiliency, carbon storage, and is of critical value for resident and migratory birds and many species of fish and wildlife that depend on estuaries at some point in their life cycle.	$38,000	Tim Clermont Guardians of our Salish Estuaries Society timclermont@shaw.ca
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.	$94,875*	Caitlin Pierzchalski Comox Valley Project Watershed Society caitlin.pierzchalski@projectwatershed.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.	$39,749	Danny Swainson BC Conservation Foundation dswainson@bccf.com
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 2025. 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 2025, identify early season indicators of stressful environmental conditions, and support in-season opportunities for response and/or mitigation.	$43,070	Brendan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship brendan.anderson@gov.bc.ca
Enhancing Connectivity and Restoring Degraded Habitat on Galiano Island	1-846	This project will restore 3 hectares of open water and western redcedar swamp wetland ecosystems on post-agricultural land within the Galiano Conservancy's newly acquired Quadra Hill Nature Reserve. It will create breeding pools for blue-listed northern red-legged frogs and other native amphibians, provide new habitat with excellent connectivity to existing protected habitat for wetland-associated wildlife, and prevent additional erosion and runoff from defunct logging roads into intact wetland habitat on an adjacent protected area.	$45,015	Adam Huggins Galiano Conservancy Association restoration@galianoconservancy.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
South Vancouver Island Ecological Corridor	1-848	The goal of the project is to establish a collective understanding of ecological corridors that cross southern Vancouver Island by weaving together Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge. This will enable the coordinated delivery of stewardship actions to protect and restore ecological corridors and to integrate the ecological corridor and its protection into land use management and planning.	$40,000*	Katie Calon BC Conservation Foundation kcalon@bccf.com
Life-Cycle Monitoring of Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Dolly Varden	1-850	This project will support freshwater riverine research initiatives to aid in the management of steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden and coho salmon. The associated dataset from the Keogh (Giyuxw) River represents the longest continuous compilation of abundance and biological characteristics of salmonids in the Pacific Northwest.	$51,332	Trevor Davies BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship trevor.davies@gov.bc.ca
High-Priority Invasive Herpetofauna Eradication on Vancouver Island	1-851	The goal of this project is to eradicate two priority invasive species on Vancouver Island, thereby preventing their negative impacts on BC's native fauna and ecosystems, and to raise public awareness of these species and their threats. This project will prevent the establishment of the Northern watersnake by capturing individuals that have been released into Elk and Beaver Lakes in the Victoria area and aims to eradicate common snapping turtles in Devil's Den Lake in the Port Alberni area.	$40,624*	Emily Lomas BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship emily.lomas@gov.bc.ca
Marbled Murrelet Habitat Research and Protection Project	1-852	Marbled Murrelets are an endangered sea bird that rely on old-growth forests. In conversations with community members, including council members, there is an interest in studying Marbled Murrelets to gain an understanding of their nests so that efforts can be made to protect them. This seed grant would explore the creation of a Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat and protection program within the territories of the 'Namgis and Kwakiutl First Nation territories.	$5,000	Charlotte Dawe Rooted Relations Consulting cadawe@ualberta.ca



1-826: Vancouver Island Steelhead Stock Decline Investigations

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	Christine Schmalz Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust christines@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 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 406,000 participants since its inception in 2006.	$80,000	Mike Gass Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC mike.gass@gofishbc.com
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.	$278,500*	Allison Hebert InStream Fisheries Research Inc. allison@instream.net
Nathan Creek Watershed Evaluation for Conservation of Coastal Cutthroat	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 and watershed process-based restoration.	$43,018	Emmanuel Abecia BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship emmanuel.abecia@gov.bc.ca
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, contribute to long-term paired adult counts with estimates of juvenile abundance to provide estimates of stock productivity, inform the Province's understanding of bull trout population at low abundance near conservation thresholds which is a current gap, and assess whether the catch and release fishery of bull trout on Alouette is sustainable.	$15,918	Jennifer Sarchuk BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship jennifer.sarchuk@gov.bc.ca
Skagit River Bull Trout Status Assessment	2-788	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. Recent discussions around the potential range extension of salmon into the upper Skagit River provide a unique opportunity to obtain baseline information prior to any formal decision. Based on information from a previous HCTF-supported project, linear development (logging and mining) has impacted the watershed. Work will potentially lead to the development of habitat protection using wildlife habitat areas.	$22,509	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship greg.andrusak@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Líl̓wat Cultural Burns to Increase Biodiversity/ Vigour, Mount Currie	2-794	This project aims to conduct two cultural burns on recently harvested cut blocks in collaboration with BC Wildfire Services and the Ministry of Forests. Expected outcomes include enhanced ecosystem and forest health, increased biodiversity, improved habitats for grizzly bears, black bears, blacktail deer, moose, elk and other wildlife, as well as greater availability of culturally significant traditional foods and medicines for the Líl̓wat7ul (Líl̓wat people). This initiative builds on the success of cultural burns completed in 2022 and 2024.	$99,621	Klay Tindall Líl̓wat Forestry Ventures LP klay.tindall@lilwatbusiness.ca
Enhancing Bat Roosting Habitat Within Stanley Park	2-796	The goal of this project is to provide suitable habitat for local bat species within Stanley Park by providing them with a safe and secure roosting area. Targeted species will include silver-haired bat, hoary bat, little brown myotis, yuma myotis and California myotis. If successful, this project would also provide an ideal study location for researchers to determine key population characteristics of bat species present within Stanley Park.	$21,506*	Tricia Collingham Stanley Park Ecology Society exec@stanleyparkecology.ca
Wagg Creek Water Quality Monitoring Initiative	2-800	This project will fund the laboratory analysis phase of a water quality sampling project that the North Shore Streamkeeper Society has been running on Wagg Creek since August 2024. The objective is to identify the stormwater input to Wagg Creek contributing the greatest sources of contamination. This information will be used to design a stormwater quality remediation project to improve habitat for benthic fauna, cutthroat trout and, in particular, coho salmon in both Wagg and Mosquito Creeks.	$5,000	Carolynne Robertson North Shore Streamkeeper Society forcarolynne@shaw.ca
Status of Silverhope Creek Bull Trout	2-801	Silverhope Creek experiences pressures from forestry and linear developments associated with roads and crossings that have seen impacts of large atmospheric river events in recent years. While a history of assessment and restoration has primarily focused on steelhead, little targeted information exists on populations of bull trout in the system. This project aims to fill data gaps related to the conservation and management of bull trout in BC, particularly focusing on the core area of the Lower Fraser Ecological Drainage Unit.	$5,000	Emmanuel Abecia BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship emmanuel.abecia@gov.bc.ca
Upper Harrison Lake - Lillooet River White Sturgeon Data Collection	2-803	White sturgeon in the lower mainland is well distributed within the Fraser, Pitt, and Harrison watersheds. However, little information exists on the distribution of these sturgeon above the Harrison River and, specifically, the north end of Harrison Lake at the confluence of the Lillooet River. This seed project seeks to better understand the full distribution of sturgeon and therefore its status and health.	$5,000	Josh Alexander Takem Marine Ltd. josh@takemmarine.com

2-776: Nathan Creek Watershed Evaluation for Conservation of Coastal Cutthroat

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
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 andrew.klassen@gov.bc.ca
Fisheries O&M - Bonaparte	3-154	Operation and maintenance of the Bonaparte Fishway and the Bonaparte Lake Dam.	$33,500	James Arner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship james.arner@gov.bc.ca
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 Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M.ovi) along the east side of the Fraser River study area. It will also conduct treatment effectiveness monitoring through an autumn lamb survey and lamb M.ovi exposure sampling in previously treated bighorn bands with the involvement of Indigenous communities.	$75,845	Jeremy Ayotte Phyla Biological Consulting Inc. 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 ongoing project has been analysing 28 years of small mammal population data from Thompson Valley and provides a benchmark for managing our grassland ecosystems as ecological and climatic shifts continue in the future.	$36,748	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University klarsen@tru.ca
Assessing Habitat Selection Across Three Bighorn Sheep Herds in Kamloops	3-479	This project investigates habitat selection by California bighorn sheep in the Thompson region, focusing on the relationships between habitat quality and rugged terrain during the lambing season. By using GPS data from 51 collared sheep and modeling habitat preferences, it will determine how the availability of escape terrain impacts reproductive success and survival. Additionally, the study explores the impact of cheatgrass, an invasive species, on bighorn sheep movement and habitat selection, with the goal of providing insights for more effective habitat management and conservation strategies.	$18,740*	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University klarsen@tru.ca
Chain Lake Dam	3-481	Chain Lake is a recreational rainbow trout fishery. The dam on the lake is at risk of failure and needs to be replaced. Its replacement through this project will maintain the trout fishery that has been established through longstanding efforts to improve the lake's water quality. In 2016, the stocking of the lake was stopped as natural reproduction supported fish stocks. The decommissioning of the dam would drop the water level on a shallow lake, having a negative impact on the trout fishery and overall water quality.	$100,000*	Myron Semegen Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen msemegen@rdos.bc.ca
Gun Lake Bull Trout Feasibility Study	3-484	The current status of bull trout in the Gun Lake (Bridge River) drainage is unknown. Recent work, limited historical data, and feedback from the angling community suggest that the bull trout population has declined. This seed funding will support reconnaissance surveys in the Gun Lake drainage to confirm bull trout presence, distribution, and habitat availability, identify potential migration barriers, and determine whether management concerns are warranted.	$5,000	Tara White BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship tara.white@gov.bc.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Cheatgrass Impacts on Bighorn Sheep	3-485	Bighorn sheep in the interior regions of BC are increasingly affected by the pervasive establishment of invasive cheatgrass. This project will explore cheatgrass management strategies to improve bighorn sheep lambing habitats. Comparing bighorn sheep collar data before and after restoration efforts will advance the understanding of how cheatgrass impacts movement patterns of this iconic species, and if cheatgrass management improves site access and lambing outcomes. Additional outcomes of this project include research into the efficacy of cheatgrass management strategies.	$4,750	Lindsay Barnett Invasive Species Council of BC Society lbarnett@bcinvasives.ca

3-453: Grassland Small Mammal Communities: Historic Trends and Future Prospects

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

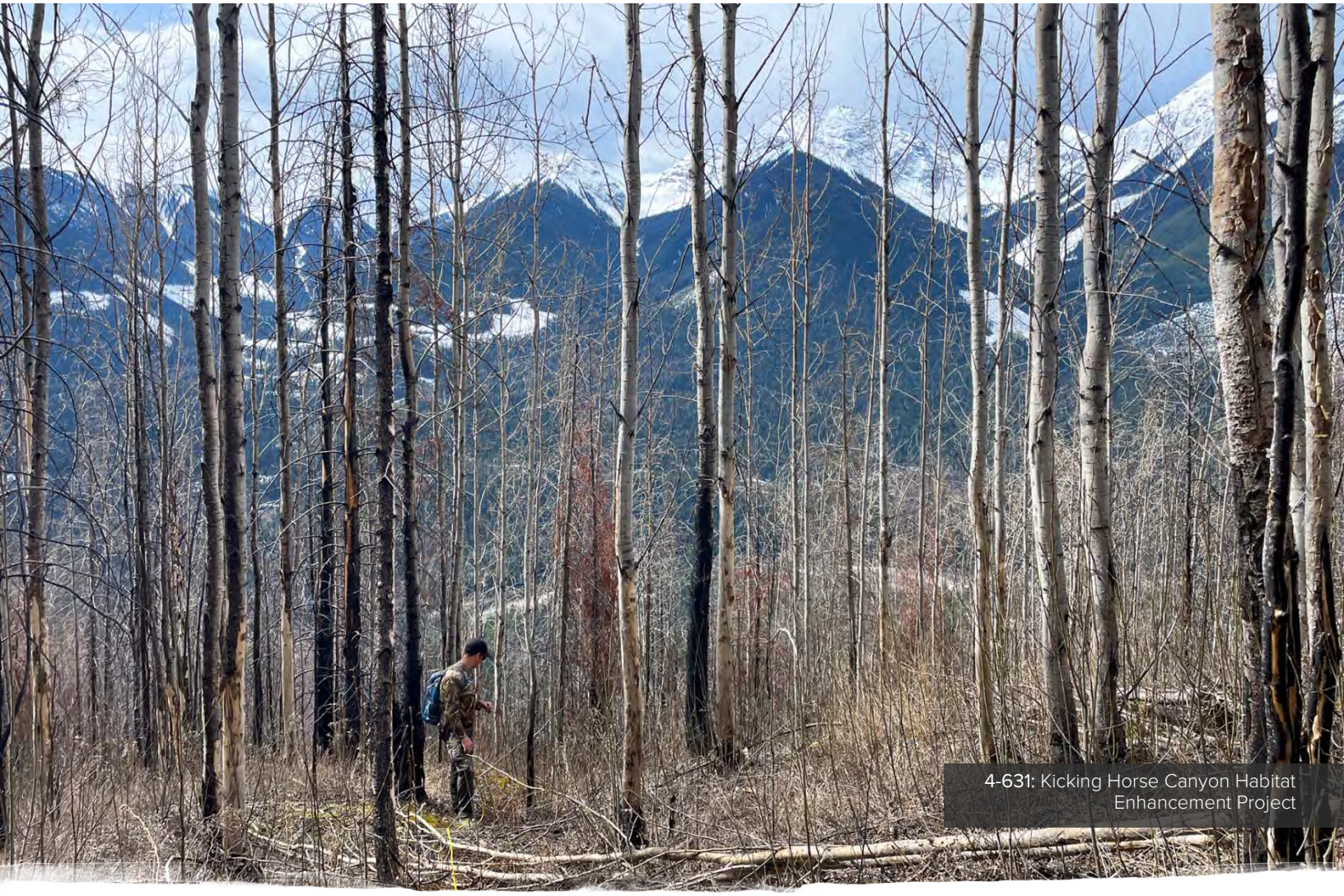
Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Kootenay	4-64	Operation and maintenance of two West Kootenay kokanee spawning channels, which support a genetically unique strain of kokanee and associated ecosystem and sport fishery benefits.	$58,000	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 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 the public and protect Gerrard rainbow trout spawners through presence at spawning sites.	$36,000	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 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 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 of maintaining or improving the quality of angling in these systems and protecting 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 kevin.heidt@gov.bc.ca
Redfish Creek Spawning Channel Infrastructure Repairs	4-538	This project aims to replace aging intake infrastructure at the Redfish Creek Spawning Channel to continue to supply stock conservation and fishery benefits. West Arm spawning channels (Kokanee Creek and Redfish Creek) support wild kokanee conservation and a popular fishery (up to 4,000 angler days/year), which generates $300,000 to $600,000 annually for the local economy.	$84,000	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship molly.teather@gov.bc.ca
Gerrard Rainbow Trout Survival and Predator Reduction Effectiveness	4-539	This project will collect critical information on Gerrard rainbow trout survival and measure the effectiveness of predator reduction activities aimed at recovery efforts on Kootenay Lake. Understanding the compensatory effect of the predators through changes in survival is a key metric for assessing whether recovery efforts are on track. The importance of this information is a necessity given the substantial efforts into reducing this population to lowered abundance intended to assist kokanee recovery.	$51,803*	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship greg.andrusak@shaw.ca
Kicking Horse Canyon Habitat Enhancement Project	4-631	This multi-year project will enhance approximately 112 hectares 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.	$95,000*	Brian Gustafson Golden District Rod and Gun Club brian@cirque-ecological.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
East Kootenay Burbot Population Monitoring	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 the current status, spawning locations, migrations, and genetic diversity will inform recovery actions of these declining populations.	$100,000	Heather Lamson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 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 alongside habitat enhancement activities will help reduce the spread of invasive plants into new areas and prevent a subsequent decline in forage quality.	$28,788*	Katie Reid East Kootenay Invasive Species Council katie@ekisc.com
Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Conservation Partnership	4-688	In 2025-2026, the program will safeguard wetland habitat at Spokin Lake near Williams Lake for the benefit of a wide variety of priority waterfowl and waterbirds. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) will complete construction of the interior design (elevation profiles for restored wetland basins) at the first phases of Bummers Flats and Moberly Marsh ahead of subsequent dike breaches to re-activate floodplain hydrology and finalize designs for the second phase of construction at Moberly and Bummers Marsh. Finally, DUC will continue to effectively steward its footprint of 67,000 hectares of wetland habitats across BC.	$249,725	Sarah Nathan Ducks Unlimited Canada s_nathan@ducks.ca
Review of Bull Trout Conservation and Management Actions: Whatshan Reservoir	4-716	This project will assess conservation and management actions implemented for bull trout in Whatshan Reservoir in 2023. Undertaking the assessment will improve the understanding and linkages between management actions and the potential population-level responses. The project has direct implications for the management of bull trout fisheries in large lakes and reservoirs throughout BC.	$24,152	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship greg.andrusak@shaw.ca
Elk Valley Bighorn Sheep Habitat Enhancement Project	4-717	The Elkford Rod and Gun Club is initiating a project with the end goal of enhancing bighorn sheep habitats on the east side of the Elk Valley. This multi-phase project is aimed at bringing together the abundance of the data and reporting that is available on these herds and identifying key areas of important habitat, like winter range and migratory routes suitable for enhancement.	$5,000	Brian Gustafson Cirque Ecological brian@cirque-ecological.ca
Kootenay Lake Conservation Measures	4-720	The goal of this project is to continue reducing predation pressure on kokanee through reductions in Gerrard rainbow trout spawners (and bull trout as bycatch). This builds on previous significant management efforts to supplement the kokanee stock and reduce piscivores. In 2013, kokanee spawner abundance decreased to unprecedentedly low numbers along with kokanee survival. After implementation of different management interventions, an increase in age 0-1 and 1-2 survival was detected in 2023 but declined in 2024. This project increases further predator reduction efforts to support higher kokanee survival and abundance.	$215,416*	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship molly.teather@gov.bc.ca
Native Crayfish Assessment and Invasive Monitoring	4-722	This seed funding aims to develop a project that will assess local populations of native crayfish to better influence harvest and management practices in the Columbia region. This will include an assessment of invasive crayfish species in the target area, southern Columbia Valley.	$5,000	Ross Zeleznik Okanagan Nation Alliance rzeleznik@syilx.org

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Ungulate Winter Range Habitat Enhancement Project	4-725	The goal of this seed project is to engage and establish support and collect the necessary data to develop a large-scale dry forest habitat enhancement project. The long-term vision is to improve ungulate winter range for elk and mule deer adjacent to Kimberley by thinning immature Douglas fir stands, and systematically applying fire to the landscape to encourage regrowth of forage and browse of fire-adapted species.	$5,000	Tim Chapman Wildsight tim@wildsight.ca
Central Selkirk Caribou Habitat Restoration	4-726	This seed funding will allow the Arrow Lakes Caribou Society to conduct preliminary planning and mapping, carry out community and stakeholder consultation, and complete field reconnaissance and data collection for the restoration of priority road networks within the core high-priority habitat of the Central Selkirk caribou herd.	$10,000	Frances Swan Arrow Lakes Caribou Society fswan@truenorthforestry.com
Bull Trout Status and Risk Assessment	4-727	This project will utilize the long-term lake-wide index for bull trout to provide an assessment of population status and trends related to Kootenay Lake recovery activities, specifically associated with predator reduction initiatives undertaken in 2023 and 2024.	$11,970	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship greg.andrusak@shaw.ca



4-631: Kicking Horse Canyon Habitat Enhancement Project

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Cariboo	5-44	This program will enhance fisheries through lake aeration on Skulow, Irish and Simon Lakes; operation and maintenance of Haines Creek 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 scott.horley@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' closures due to extreme conservation concerns.	$105,851	Lee Williston BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship lee.williston@gov.bc.ca
Dean River Steelhead Stock Assessment	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, and to prescribe a cost-effective monitoring plan to ensure that required information is collected to implement necessary management actions if the stock declines to unsustainable levels.	$117,972	Russell Bobrowski BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship 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 behaviour in the mid-Fraser will also be addressed. The study will improve understanding of migration routes and timing between river kilometre 338 and 482 and identify critical overwintering habitat.	$25,000	Lynn Avis BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship lynn.avis@gov.bc.ca
Lake Trout Reward Tags and Acoustic Telemetry - Horse Lake	5-339	This project will conduct acoustic tracking and pay cash rewards for lake trout tagged in Horse Lake. Data collected will improve statistical confidence in estimates of both fishing and natural mortality of lake trout in Horse Lake, which is important for interpreting sustainable harvest rates for the species across their range.	$2,043	Russell Bobrowski BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship russell.bobrowski@gov.bc.ca
Identifying Habitat Factors Affecting Fisher Reproductive Output in BC	5-349	This project examines how habitat impacts the reproductive output of an elusive mesocarnivore in central BC. The Columbian population of fishers is declining rapidly, with only half the reproductive rates of the more northern Boreal population. Understanding biological factors, such as body condition and reproductive output, alongside habitat quality, is essential for land managers to make informed decisions.	$46,950*	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University (Karl Larsen Research Center) klarsen@tru.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 cougars 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.	$46,504	Chris Johnson University of Northern British Columbia chris.johnson@unbc.ca
Understanding the Diet of the Columbian Fisher Through Isotopic Analysis	5-359	This project aims to provide essential insights into the primary dietary components of the declining Columbian fisher population. Hair sample analysis of both local prey and fishers will enhance understanding of diet composition through chemical isotope analysis, contributing to a deeper understanding of the factors influencing low reproductive rates within the population. The findings from this research will inform future land use planning initiatives aimed at improving food quality on the landscape, ultimately supporting the recovery of the Columbian fisher population.	$5,450	Karl Larsen Thompson Rivers University klarsen@tru.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Restoring Wetlands with BDAs and Training Workshops	5-363	Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs) are a very recent restoration tool used to create wetlands. This project will develop a training workshop to teach students and Indigenous stewards to install BDAs, study the hydrological impacts (reduced spring floods & fall dewatering), and create long-term monitoring of wetland restoration.	$5,000	Douglas Ransome British Columbia Institute of Technology doug_ransome@bcit.ca
Quesnel Lake Angling Regulations Assessment	5-370	The goal of this project is to ensure angling regulations on Quesnel Lake are sustainable without being unnecessarily restrictive. Daily quotas for both lake trout and rainbow trout have been increased to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers. This project will evaluate potential fishery and population effects resulting from these increases to ensure long-term viability.	$64,000	Lee Williston BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship lee.williston@gov.bc.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 13th year of a multi-partner restoration program to restore whitebark pine ecosystems for bear habitat in the Skeena Region. This year involves (1) planting 50-65,000 seedlings; (2) engaging with collaborators to increase the supply of seedlings; (3) seed collection from known rust-resistant trees; (4) contributing seed to blister rust-resistant screening and tree orchard programs; (5) monitoring 2 sites to assess success 15 years after planting; (6) collaborating with provincial, federal and First Nation partners in capturing wildlife use and habitat values of whitebark pine ecosystems; (7) increasing the exposure and outreach of the restoration program; and (8) serving as a hub for whitebark pine information and action in northern BC.	$68,224	Alana Clason Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management 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.	$155,500	Kenji Miyazaki BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship kenji.miyazaki@gov.bc.ca
Tweedsmuir Caribou Road Restoration	6-283	This project will benefit the Tweedsmuir–Entiako caribou herd by using functional and ecological restoration techniques to restore 100-150 kilometres of road and 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.	$276,091**	Laura Greene BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship laura.greene@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, migration, and health of Tawéi (Tlingit word for thinhorn sheep) near Atlin. Results will provide information on home range, seasonal habitat selection and movement, survivorship outcomes, and more, as well as support a baseline collection of sheep health. This will clarify the potential effects of a proposed hydro dam and opportunities for habitat enhancement, and will build on traditional and Western scientific knowledge on the Atlin East herd that supports better management for Tawéi.	$17,933	Shannon Whelan Taku Wildlife wildlife.coordinator@gov.trtfn.com
Whitesail	6-306	This project will functionally and ecologically restore approximately 86 kilometres 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 7,176 hectares of near-contiguous low-elevation summer habitat from the shoreline of Whitesail Reach to intact no-harvest areas.	$262,650	Kari Stuart-Smith Canfor kari.stuart-smith@canfor.com
Telkwa Caribou Road Restoration	6-319	This project will benefit the Telkwa caribou herd through the restoration of approximately 100 kilometres of road that will reduce interactions with predators, reduce habitat availability and access for alternate prey, and increase intact caribou habitat (mature-old forest) into the future.	$278,257**	Laura Greene BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship laura.greene@gov.bc.ca
Skeena Collaborative Field Monitoring: Science and Indigenous Knowledge	6-330	This multi-year collaborative project is dedicated to building, maintaining, and improving a region-wide multi-species wildlife habitat tool used to identify, enhance, and protect high-quality areas for key wildlife species and culturally significant plants. By identifying existing high-quality habitat and areas with high potential for species of interest (currently moose, grizzly bear, and huckleberry), project partners will build on their platform for recommendations about wildlife decisions and land use planning for the Skeena region.	$97,000	Karine Pigeon BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship karine.pigeon@gov.bc.ca

*Final Grant Amount may be subject to funding condition(s)
** Funding amount for 3 years under the CHRF program

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 6: Skeena

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Tweedsmuir-Entiako Caribou Calving Islands Shoreline Restoration	6-334	This project will benefit the Tweedsmuir-Entiako caribou herd by removing woody debris from 11 hectares of shoreline on Porkchop Island, the highest-use caribou calving island on the Whitesail reach portion of the Nechako Reservoir.	$62,000	Jim D'Andrea Cheslatta Carrier Nation jdandrea@cheslatta.ca

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

*Final Grant Amount may be subject to funding condition(s)
** Funding amount for 3 years under the CHRF program

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	The 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 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 behaviour, habitat selection, migratory strategies, patterns, and pathways. Collars are highly visible for the purpose of mark-resight surveys to determine appropriate statistical sightability correction factors for elk in northern British Columbia, which will be applied to future abundance estimates without the need for collars.	$70,000	Matt Scheideman BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship matthew.scheideman@gov.bc.ca
Callazon-Clearwater Valley: 4000 and 3800 Roads	7-554	This project will use functional and ecological restoration techniques to add an additional 2,358 hectares to intact areas of habitat within the Klinse-Za caribou herd range.	$10,332*	Candace Batycki Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society candace@cariboufutures.ca
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 the 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.	$24,900*	Landon Birch Wild Sheep Society of BC ljbirch@mail.ubc.ca
Determining Mechanisms of Decline of the Robson Valley Mountain Goats	7-585	Mountain goats are an iconic species in BC, 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 mechanisms 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.	$62,820	Kara MacAulay BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship kara.macaulay@gov.bc.ca
Effects of Landscape Change on Moose Health	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 supplement this 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.	$23,863	Heather Bryan University of Northern British Columbia heather.bryan@unbc.ca

*Final Grant Amount may be subject to funding condition(s)
** Funding amount for 3 years under the CHRF program

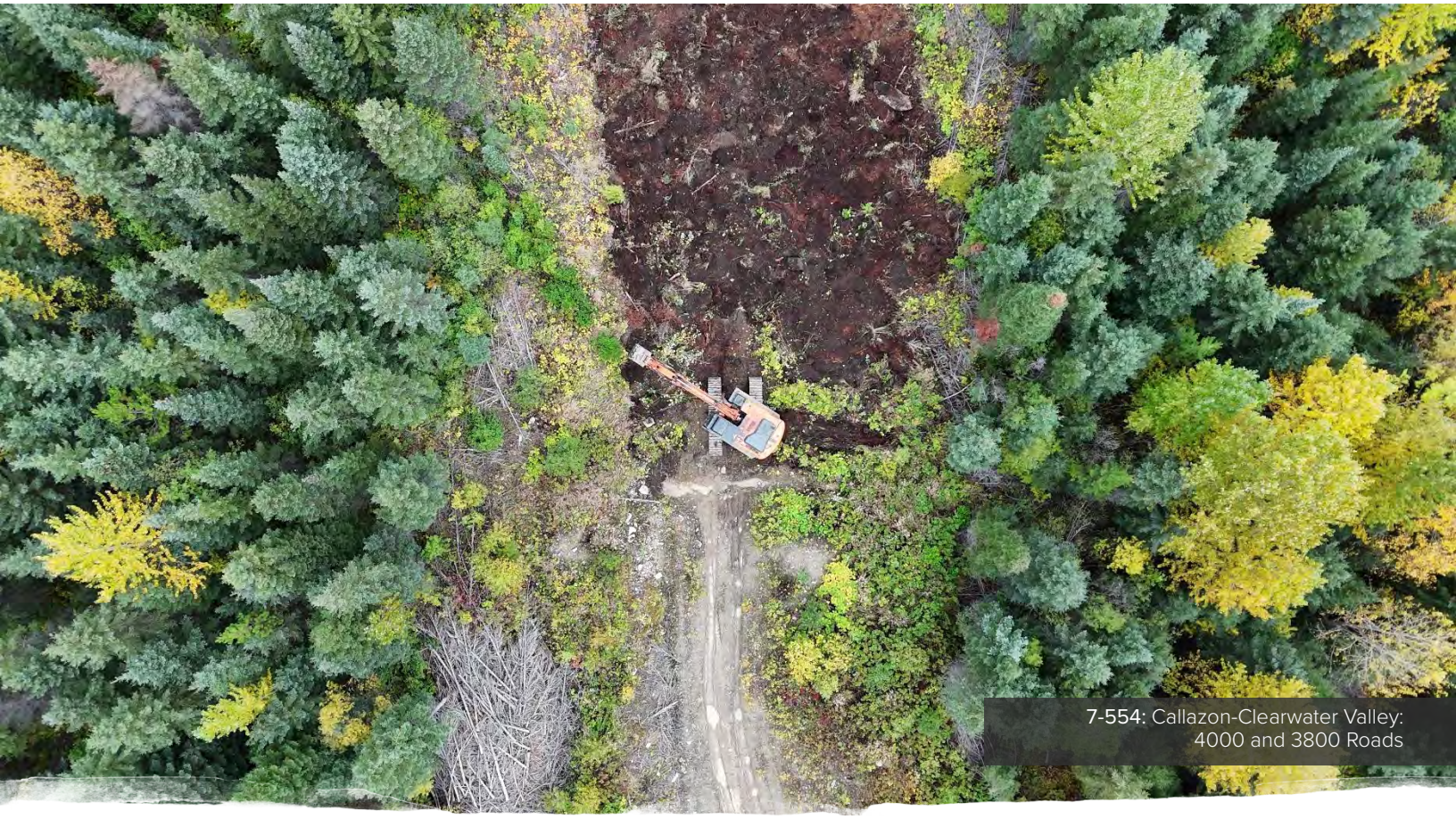
Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
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.	$45,645*	Krista Sittler Wildex Consulting Ltd. krista@wildex.ca
Sitlika Creek Channel Restoration and Monitoring	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 rainbow trout - each of which supports sport and sustenance fisheries and economic activity important to Takla Nation - following 2022 spring flooding. The channel had been built the previous summer to restore fish passage through an inactive railway that has been fragmenting habitat for over 40 years.	$20,000*	Nicolas Lapointe Canadian Wildlife Federation nlapointe@cwf-fcf.org
Assessing Seasonal Mountain Goat Survey Effectiveness	7-599	Mountain goats are an iconic wildlife species in BC with multiple significant values. Their 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; however, this approach remains untested. This project aims to compare winter, summer, and fall survey timing to investigate seasonal changes in goat detection.	$51,000	Morgan Anderson BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship morgan.anderson@gov.bc.ca
Swannell River Valley	7-603	This project aims to annually restore 10 kilometres 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.	(ongoing)	Sean Rapai Chu Cho Environmental sean@chuchoenvironmental.com
Motus Wildlife Tracking System: South Peace Expansion Feasibility Project	7-612	The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a collaborative research network that uses an international array of receiver stations to track birds and bats equipped with radio-transmitters and to study their movements, ecology and conservation. The collaborative nature of the system allows animals to be tracked at regional to hemispheric scales across a diversity of landscapes. The goal is to determine the feasibility of expanding the Motus network into the south Peace region along the corridor of operational and proposed wind farms, which is potentially a major migration corridor for both birds and bats.	$5,000	Amie MacDonald Birds Canada amacdonald@birdscanada.org
Mount Rochfort	7-613	This project will use functional and ecological restoration techniques to add an additional 1,816 hectares to intact areas of habitat within the Klinse-Za caribou herd range.	$630,691**	Candace Batycki Nîkanêse Wah tzee Stewardship Society candace@cariboufutures.ca
Mount Bullmoose and Mount Spieker – Quintette A and B Prescription Areas	7-614	This project will benefit the Quintette caribou herd by restoring approximately 73.5 kilometres of linear features using functional and ecological methods within high-priority restoration polygons identified in the Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan.	$965,679**	Kiara Gannon BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship kiara.gannon@gov.bc.ca
Restoration of Industrial Disturbances within the Quintette Caribou Range	7-615	This seed funding will be used to develop a proposal to identify priority regions in the Quintette caribou herd range that require restoration after industrial disturbance.	$10,000	Alycia Aird Aski Reclamation LP aaird@askilp.ca

*Final Grant Amount may be subject to funding condition(s)
** Funding amount for 3 years under the CHRF program

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Quality Waters Strategy - Omineca	7-616	This project's activities include snorkel counts and adding signage to important access areas of the classified Stellako River. The outcomes desired are to continue to provide population trend data for all counted size classes of fish and evaluate changes in the fishery in response to regulation and relevant environmental changes.	$3,000	Nikolaus Gantner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship nikolaus.gantner@gov.bc.ca



7-554: Callazon-Clearwater Valley: 4000 and 3800 Roads

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

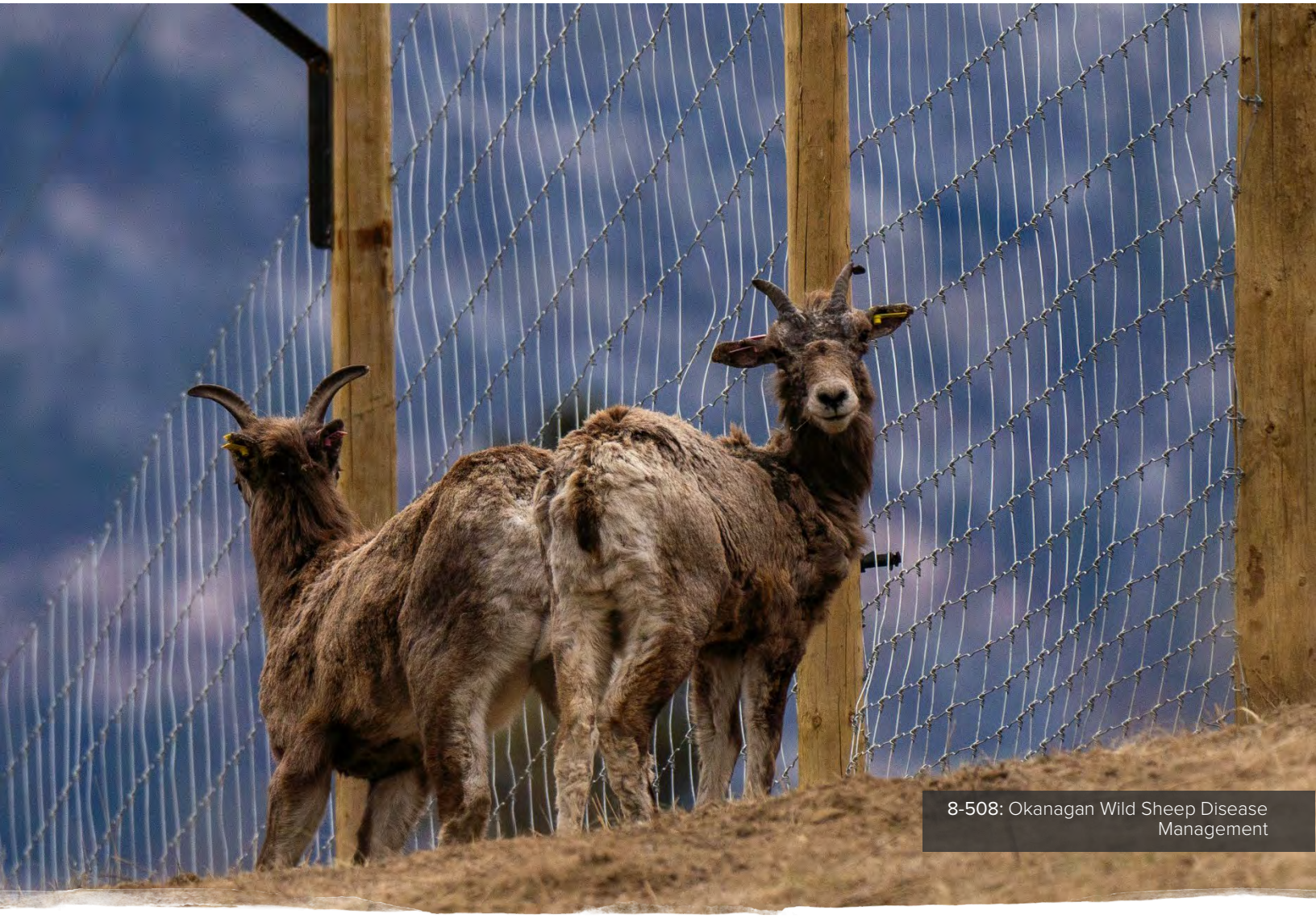
Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Okanagan	8-124	This project covers the Operations and Maintenance of fisheries in the Okanagan Region. The key activities are the aeration operation of Burnell, Kidd, Yellow, Gardom, and Martins Lakes; dam maintenance 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	Amanda Turner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship amanda.turner@gov.bc.ca
Mission Creek Restoration Initiative – Restoration Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring	8-320	The restoration of stream habitat was identified as one of the highest priorities for the recovery of kokanee and rainbow trout in Okanagan Lake. This project and future restoration, as guided by the Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan, will provide wide-ranging benefits to the ecosystem, both at the aquatic and riparian habitat levels. In addition, it will be key to increasing channel stability and associated improvements in flood protection.	$121,507	Steven Matthews BC Conservation Foundation matthewsenvconsulting@gmail.com
Restoring Riparian Cottonwoods for Species at Risk in the Kettle River	8-433	The goal of this project is to create resilient and healthy riparian areas throughout the Kettle River Watershed; to have landowners, local government and municipalities working together to conserve and restore riparian areas that have a complete plant community, be structurally diverse, and resilient to climate change in order to support our wildlife that rely on them for nesting, shelter, and feeding.	$23,460*	Jenny Coleshill Granby Wilderness Society jenny.coleshill@gmail.com
Enhancement of Winter Range Habitat for Mule Deer in Douglas-Fir Forests	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 hectares, and a range of harvesting regimes with replicated openings are being tested.	$22,730	Thomas Sullivan Applied Mammal Research Institute tom@appliedmammal.com
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.	$99,749	Daniel Ramos-Espinoza InStream Fisheries Research Inc. dani@instream.net
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 decline 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.	$35,473	Jim Arner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship james.arner@gov.bc.ca
Okanagan Wild Sheep Disease Management	8-508	Several diseases and syndromes have affected and remain present in the Okanagan's blue-listed yilík^{w}lxkn (bighorn sheep) populations, influencing population numbers, abundance, and overall health. This initiative will establish Psoroptic Mange treatment with a clinical drug treatment trial. This work will inform the timing and application of treatment protocols to manage and potentially eradicate Psoroptes cuniculi disease across all herds in the Okanagan.	$84,825*	Cailyn Glasser Okanagan Nation Alliance cglasser@syilx.org

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
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.	$15,624	Reece Allingham Cherry Ridge Management Committee reece@deeringforest.com
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, forage abundance, and the oncoming spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.	$71,438	Adam Ford University of British Columbia adam.ford@ubc.ca
sməlqmí Endangered Wildlife (kíṅḱíńt̓ iʔ tmixʷ) recovery	8-518	This project is focused along the Ashnola River Corridor to its confluence with the Similkameen River, where severe wildfires have desiccated the land. The goal is to restore the Ashnola River ecosystem vitality, create wildlife corridors, increase habitat resiliency to benefit species at risk, and ensure the well-being of sməlqmíx, the Syilx people of the Similkameen Valley. The restoration project will create and improve critical habitat that has been completely lost by the 2023 forest fire devastation and forestry practices. Active restoration will continue to address habitat attributes that are essential to 12 different wildlife and plant species at risk and aquatic species, including fish that are native to the Ashnola River system.	$97,500*	Lauren Terbasket Lower Similkameen Indian Band laurenterbasket@gmail.com
Assessing Riparian Refugia for Birds as Heat Waves Increase	8-520	The project goal is to determine whether riparian habitats offer birds refuge from extreme summer temperatures in the Okanagan Valley. UBC will measure the daily vocal activity of breeding birds relative to temperature and determine the importance of riparian microclimates in supporting bird diversity after birds fledge and before they migrate. As summer heat waves intensify, the project will improve understanding of avian habitat use and behaviour in extreme heat, thus informing management of sensitive riparian floodplains to protect biodiversity and enable climate resilience.	$71,790	Karen Hodges The University of British Columbia karen.hodges@ubc.ca
Speckled Dace Critical Habitat Assessment	8-524	The goal of this project is to evaluate Speckled Dace Critical Habitat Areas (CHA) in the Kettle River Watershed by addressing the following needs: (1) Verify geospatial areas proposed as critical habitat do contain suitable habitat, and confirm abundance within these proposed Critical Habitat Areas; (2) Develop accurate biophysical descriptions of the proposed critical habitat locations and establish monitoring programs at each location; and (3) Sample the stream sections immediately above the delineated critical habitat for Speckled Dace. Results from this project will either validate the CHAs as effective conservation areas or provide data to adjust them to reach conservation targets.	$13,626	Evan Smith Okanagan Nation Alliance esmith@syilx.org
Thomson Marsh Park Wetland Enhancement	8-525	This project will conduct the restoration of Thomson Marsh through invasive plant management and indigenous plant re-vegetation.	$22,430	Alyson Skinner Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society alyson@osstewardship.ca

Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Indigenous Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration at Westside Rd in Equesis/Six Mile Creek	8-529	This Okanagan Indian Band-led project will restore year-round fish passage and improve aquatic and riparian habitat diversity at the Westside Road weirs in Equesis/Six Mile Creek while maintaining water access for the community using ecologically friendly infrastructure. The Westside weirs represent the final major barrier to fish passage in Equesis Creek's lower reach; replacing the weirs with a series of riffles will enhance habitat at the site and ultimately restore access to over 20 kilometres of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for all indigenous fish species, especially kokanee salmon and rainbow trout.	$94,050	Patrick Riley Okanagan Indian Band research.manager@okanagan.org
Peachland Creek Restoration	8-530	Spawning habitat within Peachland Creek is supported by a system of instream spawning platforms and weirs. The structures were subject to significant flood damage in 2017/2018 and have aged out. The goal of this project is to develop and implement a restoration plan for Peachland Creek that will facilitate the long-term stability of the creek's high-quality spawning habitat and preserve the integrity of the system's kokanee recruitment production.	$77,622	Amanda Turner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship amanda.l.turner@gov.bc.ca



8-508: Okanagan Wild Sheep Disease Management