

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



MEDIA RELEASE

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program Funds Community–Led Projects with \$2.9 million

VANCOUVER, September 9, 2008 – The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) today released the list of 66 community-led projects throughout the Fraser Basin that are receiving over \$2.9 million in the April 2008 to March 2009 funding period of their jointly managed Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP). Other sources are contributing more than twice the value of FSWP funds, bringing the total value of projects being funded to approximately \$9.2 million. Additional funds are allocated for two more community-led projects that are working to meet program requirements.

Major funding for FSWP has been provided by the Living Rivers Trust Fund, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fraser Basin Initiative (FBI), and the Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund. The funding supports diverse projects in the areas of habitat restoration, fisheries management information, watershed governance and educational engagement. In all these areas, FSWP seeks to engage First Nations and their world views.

FSWP projects focus on enhancing the health of Fraser River salmon and watersheds, and are selected through a process that includes ongoing collaboration and advice from groups active throughout the Fraser Basin and from strategic advisory groups. Projects can be initiated either by community organizations or by FSWP in response to strategic gaps.

The projects selected for funding are the next steps in addressing the need to:

- prioritize the threats to salmon habitats and address the highest priorities,
- foster collaboration in planning and decision making that focuses on watersheds,
- enable strategies and information that help fisheries to preserve the abundance and genetic diversity of salmon, especially in the face of climate change impacts, and
- support a complement of education and awareness activity throughout the Basin.

A list of the 2008 community-led projects with approved FSWP funding is attached. As each project begins, the proponent posts an overview in the project section of ThinkSalmon.com.

"The challenges facing Fraser River salmon are substantial and require our ongoing attention," said the Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. "We are committed to conserving Fraser River salmon stocks and are proud to be contributing to the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program which is acting to conserve and rebuild these species. We believe that collaborative efforts like this program are the key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of salmon stocks, and the health of the Fraser Basin ecosystem."

"The mission of the Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program is human behaviour change. Becoming responsible stewards of the salmon resource is economical compared to the cost of losing salmon," said John Woodward, Chair of the Living Rivers Trust Fund advisory group. "Working together to restore healthy, salmon-sustaining rivers is the key to making our communities thrive and establishing BC as a world leader in sustainable living."

“The Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program works to integrate the perspectives of community-based groups with broadly focused science and advice, which results in a strategic mix of projects,” stated Dr. Paul Kariya, Executive Director of PSF. “Over the long term, the Program enables others to become more effective agents of change and more resilient. We are honoured to be working with organizations and individuals throughout the Fraser Basin who share a high level of commitment to restoring salmon and watersheds.”

“Collaboration is critical in the better management of water, fish and other natural resources,” said David Marshall, Executive Director of FBC. “The Fraser Salmon and Watersheds program supports collaborations across public, private and non-profit sectors, and that means investing in people who are willing to do things differently. I’m pleased to see innovative partnerships emerging, and expect these will serve as valuable models that shape how we manage watersheds in the long term.”

Projects supported by FSWP are evaluated and funded annually. The Request for Proposals to the April 2009—March 2010 funding period is posted on ThinkSalmon.com, and conceptual proposals are due September 14.

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2008 Community-Led Projects funded by the Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program

(sorted by region)

| Proponent | Project description | FBC Region | FSWP Funding | Total Value |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|--------------|-------------|
| A-Tlegay Fisheries Society | Install a database for fisheries data to better manage food, social and ceremonial fisheries; build software development capacity. | Basin wide | 37,025 | 41,825 |
| BC Conservation Foundation | Monitor restored habitat to inform adaptive management and future restoration projects. | Basin wide | 5,000 | 32,825 |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans | Add requirement to report habitat inventory data to current scientific license. | Basin wide | 15,000 | 59,400 |
| ESSA Technologies Ltd. | Pilot a framework that provides science to support proactive decisions on behalf of salmon and watersheds in the face of climate-induced changes in freshwater systems. | Basin wide | 30,000 | 56,755 |
| Fraser Basin Council | Integrated Salmon Dialogue Forum is a continuing series of collaborative and inclusive meetings and workshops to work towards a sustainable salmon fishery that respects the Wild Salmon Policy and serves both people and salmon. | Basin wide | 72,058 | 235,000 |
| Fraser River Salmon Table Society | Building a River Community (BARC) continues to convene First Nations, commercial and recreational sectors to resolve regional issues about fisheries access and allocation. | Basin wide | 140,000 | 201,860 |
| G. A. Borstad Associates Ltd | Develop a high-level indicator of the biophysical condition of watersheds from satellite imagery that can be linked to salmon. | Basin wide | 25,000 | 632,900 |
| Nature Conservancy of Canada | Continue developing GIS-based tool to support decision makers with regional (watershed scale) information about aquatic resources, salmon and other species, development, threats, options in an ecosystem based management approach. | Basin wide | 125,000 | 529,477 |
| Pacific Streamkeepers Federation | Provide materials for community programs to mark stormdrains with yellow fish and educate citizens on impacts of pollutants that go into stormdrains | Basin wide | 29,460 | 124,552 |
| Rivershed Society of BC | Riversheds Forum is an annual basin-wide community workshop on effective stewardship and sustainability initiatives; 2008 meeting in in Fraser Lake will address "Sustainability From a First Nations Perspective" | Basin wide | 10,000 | 25,460 |
| Rivershed Society of BC | Guide youth on a three week 1200km journey down the Fraser providing experiential learning about leadership, watersheds and sustainable living from a variety of contacts as they go. | Basin wide | 10,000 | 99,960 |

| Proponent | Project description | FBC Region | FSWP Funding | Total Value |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Rivershed Society of BC | Inventory and coordinate key conservation groups in the Fraser Basin to match issues, threats and concerns with current efforts and identify gaps; draft a "Fraser River Salmon & Sustainability Charter" | Basin wide | 10,000 | 102,000 |
| Simon Fraser University | Fraser Basin Ecosystem Project continues to address knowledge gaps about the relationships between salmon and their ecosystems, including understanding nutrient links between marine and freshwater ecosystems. | Basin wide | 86,300 | 156,107 |
| Stewardship Centre of BC | Develop a conceptual framework for stewardship and apply the framework in a business plan to support organizational capacity for training, outreach, coordination, policy and infrastructure. | Basin wide | 44,500 | 56,700 |
| Stewardship Centre of BC | Continue to address core funding needs for stewardship groups by delivering 9 pilot challenge grants and then evaluating grant effectiveness. | Basin wide | 43,500 | 302,000 |
| Stream of Dreams Murals Society | Educate about human impacts on watersheds, leave a legacy of hand painted salmon on chain link fence. | Basin wide | 42,000 | 116,785 |
| Watershed Watch Salmon Society | Collect groundwater temperature and flow data in Fish Trap and Bertrand Creeks. Simulate groundwater and streamflow responses to climate change and land use trends. | Basin wide | 50,000 | 262,800 |
| University of BC - Forest Hydrology | Create a tool to estimate changes of peak flow in a watershed given different land use and mountain pine beetle scenarios. | Basin wide / Thompson | 50,000 | 161,500 |
| Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society | Provide a variety of programs on water conservation and watershed health to the Cariboo region. Promote stewardship in partnership with local businesses. | Cariboo Chicoltin | 24,000 | 139,772 |
| Horsefly River Roundtable | Prescribe how to restore and manage habitat areas as part of planning for watershed based fish sustainability plan. | Cariboo Chicoltin | 45,000 | 123,880 |
| Northern Shuswap Tribal Council | Develop a stock assessment program using traditional fishing methods as well as fishwheel technology in the upper Fraser River. | Cariboo Chicoltin | 98,900 | 116,400 |
| Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government | Develop a management structure to implement and monitor Xenigwet'in's multi-stakeholder ecosystem-based plan for the caretaker area to ensure fish sustaining practices within the Chilko Watershed. | Cariboo Chicoltin | 45,000 | 115,940 |
| Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government | Restore and enhance streams in the Xenigwet'in Caretaker Area (Chilko Watershed); engage tourism sector. | Cariboo Chicoltin | 70,000 | 405,893 |
| BC Conservation Foundation | Restore streambanks on Silverhope Creek mainstem. | Fraser Valley | 22,000 | 85,495 |

| Proponent | Project description | FBC Region | FSWP Funding | Total Value |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| BC Conservation Foundation | Restore a 750 meter section of stable off channel in Ladner Creek (off the Coquihalla River) to improve rearing habitat. | Fraser Valley | 20,000 | 60,900 |
| Chehalis Indian Band | Test an inland fisheries monitoring system that monitors harvest with DNA testing and establishes chain of custody with traceability technology. | Fraser Valley | 28,500 | 57,020 |
| Chehalis Indian Band | Form partnerships and develop joint access protocol for First Nations and recreational fishers; create new trails on Chehalis and Harrison Rivers to direct access away from sensitive areas; monitor catch. | Fraser Valley | 30,000 | 126,520 |
| Fraser River Sturgeon Conservation Society | Assess fish passage and habitat usage; better understand the aquatic biology in the Hatzic Watershed. | Fraser Valley | 15,000 | 37,500 |
| Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Society | Continue to develop biodiversity materials and curriculum based on the the connection between eagle and salmon; market and distribute materials. | Fraser Valley | 44,100 | 64,100 |
| Fraser Valley Conservancy | Promote and assist riparian stewardship for private landowners in the Chilliwack River and Cultus Lake watersheds. | Fraser Valley | 20,000 | 94,246 |
| Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition | Engage stakeholders in Implementation of watershed based fish sustainability plan; develop monitoring strategy. | Fraser Valley | 22,100 | 63,000 |
| Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition | Plan upgrade for Hammersley Pumping Station near Agassiz in the District of Kent to mitigate negative impacts on fish access. | Fraser Valley | 42,500 | 89,900 |
| Langley Environmental Partners Society | Build watershed awareness through community events, school program, social marketing, awareness survey, riparian planting and garden tour. | Fraser Valley | 51,850 | 123,850 |
| LGL Limited | Track returning Alouette River sockeye spawners that were released over dam in 2005-07; 2007 returns were a milestone in salmon recovery. | Fraser Valley | 15,425 | 38,600 |
| LGL Limited | Evaluate multispecies live capture and tagging facility near Mission for improved in-season estimates of escapement, composition and in-river mortality. | Fraser Valley | 310,000 | 754,073 |
| Pacific Streamkeepers Federation | Identify and prioritize sites that are impediments to fish in the Brunette, Coquitlam, Pitt, Kanaka, and Alouette watersheds; includes steward training. | Fraser Valley | 40,000 | 128,190 |
| Soowahlie First Nation | Continue to enhance and restore Sweltzer Creek working with adjacent landowners; study Cultus Lake Sockeye residency times in the creek. | Fraser Valley | 45,000 | 57,852 |
| Soowahlie First Nation | Restore fish rearing habitat in Quarry Ponds adjacent to the Chilliwack River on Soowahlie band land. | Fraser Valley | 45,000 | 65,946 |

| Proponent | Project description | FBC Region | FSWP Funding | Total Value |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Area E Gillnetters Association | Develop options for collaborative engagement of commercial and other sectors in salmon fisheries management. | Greater Vancouver | 15,000 | 20,000 |
| BC Conservation Foundation | Prescribe habitat rehabilitation for degraded watersheds (13 bodies of water) along the south coast. | Greater Vancouver | 18,000 | 77,800 |
| City of Coquitlam Kwikwetlem First Nation | Continue vision and plan for watershed conservation by applying principles, collaborative governance and health indicators. | Greater Vancouver | 45,000 | 90,000 |
| City of Surrey | City of Surrey's student-based Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHaRP) promotes watershed stewardship and fish habitat enhancement within Surrey "Nature Matters" approach. | Greater Vancouver | 10,000 | 302,680 |
| Como Watershed Group (Society) | Restart Watershed Wise Program on urban watersheds and the species they support. | Greater Vancouver | 23,475 | 60,650 |
| Musqueam Indian Band | Prioritize and rehabilitate man-made barriers to salmon migration in Fraser tributaries west of Brunette River; includes public workshop. | Greater Vancouver | 40,000 | 47,970 |
| Musqueam Indian Band | Develop a preliminary recovery strategy for lower Fraser coho through integrated planning by First Nations. | Greater Vancouver | 20,000 | 55,616 |
| Rivershed Society of BC | Project Brunette Rivershed engages and supports community groups in developing and monitoring sustainability actions and indicators; develop a Brunette Rivershed Sustainability Tour. | Greater Vancouver | 15,000 | 98,845 |
| Smart Growth BC | Establish a Sea-to-Sky Greenbelt through land use designation or legislation; map critical habitat for salmon and other species; partner with stakeholders and outreach to community. | Greater Vancouver | 20,000 | 165,000 |
| Stewardship Pemberton | Develop interpretive signs for One Mile Park and salmon programming with Camp Cayoosh; Scope and fundraise for a watershed interpretive centre in One Mile Park. | Greater Vancouver | 22,758 | 31,003 |
| BC Cattlemen's Association | Farmland Riparian Interface Stewardship Program provides advice and support for riparian restoration and streambank stabilization to the agricultural and ranching community. | Thompson | 100,000 | 240,000 |
| Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society | Continue to implement and improve watershed based fish sustainability plan. | Thompson | 45,000 | 138,629 |
| Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society | Stabilize 1.5 km of streambanks over 15 sites on the Bonaparte River; includes mapping and site photos and contributes to watershed based fish sustainability plan. | Thompson | 40,000 | 123,142 |
| Bridge River Indian Band | Establish spawning channel and rearing ponds in gravel accretion area of lower Bridge River. Primarily benefits coho, but also chinook and pink. | Thompson | 50,000 | 90,000 |

| Proponent | Project description | FBC Region | FSWP Funding | Total Value |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Columbia Shuswap Regional District | Inventory foreshore of Shuswap Lake through aerial footage and ground inspection; incorporate into Community Mapping Network online atlas. | Thompson | 24,400 | 81,700 |
| Kingfisher Interpretive Centre Society | Provide interpretive centre programs on watershed stewardship; develop program on invasive species. | Thompson | 70,000 | 268,052 |
| Lillooet Tribal Council | Use traditional First Nations fishing methods as a stock assesment platform in middle Fraser. Includes collection and near-real time reporting of catch and catch per unit effort. | Thompson | 50,000 | 84,700 |
| Ministry of Environment Kamloops | Continue to implement initiatives for Shuswap Lake on foreshore development/zoning and growth; water quality and waste management; and recreation management. | Thompson | 45,000 | 70,000 |
| Ministry of Environment Kamloops | Apply naturalized hydrograph data and assessed effects of Mountain Pine Beetle to management decisions on the Nicola. | Thompson | 30,000 | 51,000 |
| Nicola Tribal Association | Restore in stream habitat in the mid-Nicola River; educate landowners about value of restoration. | Thompson | 30,000 | 56,561 |
| Nicola Tribal Association | Promote more environmentally sensitive practices for ATV users along the Coldwater River. | Thompson | 24,000 | 28,880 |
| Nicola Tribal Association | Improve off channel access to create rearing habitat for interior Fraser coho; educate landowners about improvements. | Thompson | 60,000 | 77,313 |
| Nicola Watershed Community Round Table | Synthesize information to date into implementation strategy for Nicola Water Use Management Plan. | Thompson | 61,250 | 190,850 |
| Nicola Watershed Community Round Table | Recommend pilot water governance framework as part of water use management planning for Nicola watershed | Thompson | 15,000 | 57,250 |
| Salmon River Watershed Society | Assess effectiveness of 15 years of streambank restoration on over 200 sites; evaluate change in community values towards activity that supports salmon stock recovery. | Thompson | 20,000 | 82,130 |
| Salmon River Watershed Society | Stabilize streambanks over 46 farms on the Salmon River and report on pre-treatment, as-built and post-treatment conditions. | Thompson | 55,000 | 416,697 |
| Secwepemc Fisheries Commission | Investigate interaction between habitat for interior Fraser coho and groundwater, which may provide a colder refuge during warm times. | Thompson | 57,932 | 103,302 |
| University of BC- Okanagan | Continue understanding how interactions between surface and ground water affect fish; assess impacts of management on fish protection and human needs. | Thompson | 66,290 | 130,290 |

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

See also www.fswp.ca, www.ThinkSalmon.com

The Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP) seeks to inspire changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmon and the watersheds on which we all depend. Launched in 2006, it is jointly managed by Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council. FSWP's business plan defines three long range goals to

1. Foster effective communications and governance approaches,
2. Protect and restore habitat and water, and
3. Support responsive and effective fisheries management.

FSWP is supported by the Living Rivers Trust Fund with \$10 million over four years and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Fraser Basin Initiative (FBI) with \$10 million over five years, contributed as \$5 million cash and \$5 million in technical expertise, staff time, and resources. Pacific Salmon Endowment Fund Society provides \$5 million over five years towards capacity at Pacific Salmon Foundation, along with commitments from several private sector partners.

FSWP pursues its mission through ongoing collaboration to identify, scope, implement, and fund priority activities in four program areas:

- Habitat & water restoration and stewardship,
- Integrated planning and governance,
- Improved information/ approaches for sustainable integrated fisheries management, and
- Education and engagement.

FSWP seeks to engage First Nations and support their world views in all four areas and in all aspects of the planning process. Setting priorities for activity draws on many perspectives using

- strategic advice from the Living Rivers Advisory Group and the Fraser Basin Initiative Steering Committee,
- and collaboration with the Fraser Assembly, an annual meeting and ongoing network open to all groups with an interest in the Fraser Basin salmon and watersheds.

Projects that respond to the priorities are proposed annually by both proponents and FSWP staff, and are then developed through a process of iterative advice and review. To date, FSWP has funded over 117 projects to benefit Fraser Basin salmon and watersheds.

Pacific Salmon Foundation (www.psf.ca) is an independent, non-profit organization and a national leader in the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon. Formed in 1987, PSF directs funding to grassroots, volunteer-driven projects focused on the conservation of Pacific salmon. PSF has grown into the leading Canadian non-profit organization to forge partnerships with local communities, First Nations, all levels of government, industry, educational institutions, commercial and recreational fisheries and non-profit organizations all working together to restore and enhance Pacific salmon.

Fraser Basin Council (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca) is a charitable non-profit society that promotes sustainability in all its dimensions: social, economic and environmental. The Council's vision for the Fraser Basin is a place where social well-being is supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment. The Council has a unique collaborative governance structure that brings together on its board of directors representatives from the four orders of Canadian government (federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations), as well as the private sector and civil society. The FBC helps others collaborate for their mutual benefit and carries out various research initiatives, strategies and programs that support sustainability.