

Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program



MEDIA RELEASE

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

VANCOUVER, August 11, 2008 – The Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) and the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) today released a list of 62 community-led projects throughout the Fraser Basin that will receive over \$2.6 million in the April 2008 to March 2009 funding period of their jointly managed Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP). An additional \$310,000 has been allocated for 7 more community-led projects, and will be approved as proponents respond to project specific 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 next call for submissions is due out this month.

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

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
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
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

Proponent	Project description	FBC Region	FSWP Funding	Total Value
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 Xeni Gwet'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 Xeni Gwet'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
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
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

Proponent	Project description	FBC Region	FSWP Funding	Total Value
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	300,000	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
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

Proponent	Project description	FBC Region	FSWP Funding	Total Value
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
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
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

Proponent	Project description	FBC Region	FSWP Funding	Total Value
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