



MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

See also www.ThinkSalmon.com

British Columbia watersheds face critical challenges brought about by climate change and development pressure, including rising water temperatures, water shortages and declining salmon stocks. The Fraser Salmon & Watersheds Program (FSWP) is devoted to realizing healthy salmon populations in functioning watersheds co-existing with thriving communities throughout the Fraser Basin. Co-managed by Pacific Salmon Foundation and Fraser Basin Council, FSWP distributes funds from the provincial Living Rivers Trust Fund and a federal initiative of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to address four strategic areas:

- Collaborative watershed governance and water management
- Improved approaches and information for fisheries management
- Habitat work, and related information and coordination
- Action-oriented public engagement

FSWP takes a unique approach of enabling communities, and especially First Nations, to identify and address the issues for their water and watersheds. The approach has been a powerful catalyst for money and participation throughout the Fraser Basin, delivering projects with less bureaucracy and expense than would otherwise be possible. Based on data for 2007 through 2009, every project dollar from Living Rivers has been matched by \$3.30 from the federal contribution together with other sources estimated by project leaders.

By fostering collaboration, we are creating a legacy of coordinated effort among First Nations, government agencies, community groups, and scientists for the direct benefit of water and watersheds in British Columbia. This collaborative, community-based approach offers an economical way to connect government plans such as Living Water Smart and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy with community concerns and local knowledge.

As detailed in the project section of ThinkSalmon.com, FSWP projects have resulted in:

- more effective water resources management,
- improved information and methods for fisheries management,
- increased engagement of First Nations in watershed and fisheries stewardship,
- increased stewardship of agricultural land,
- restored critical salmon habitat and
- behaviour change for the benefit of watersheds.

Year	#	\$
2006	35	\$1.0 million
2007	60	\$2.8 million
2008	85	\$3.5 million
2009	64	\$3.2 million
2010	38	\$1.9 million
TOTAL	282	\$12.4 million

Summary of FSWP funds distributed

The funding that FSWP distributes will expire in 2011 unless it is renewed. The Living Rivers group has begun to work towards a stable provincial-federal funding mechanism. While the new mechanism is developed, we are seeking a renewal of the provincial and federal funding to continue the momentum of FSWP.

Pacific Salmon Foundation (www.psf.ca) is an independent, non-governmental, charitable organization and a national leader in the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon.

Fraser Basin Council (www.fraserbasin.bc.ca) is a charitable non-profit society that advances sustainability in British Columbia with a geographic focus on the Fraser Basin.

Living Rivers Trust Fund (www.livingrivers.ca) was established by the British Columbia government "to create a legacy for the province based on healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities."

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) was motivated by the Living Rivers funding to create the federal Fraser Basin Initiative, providing funding and services to FSWP.