

Dear firstname,

This week we are celebrating and thanking the community that came together during the last three weeks to connect with the Fraser Watershed for Race the River. The event may be over, but we encourage you to continue to connect with the Watershed. Go out for a swim, paddle, hike, or ride and continue exploring the [incredible outdoor opportunities](#) the Fraser Watershed has to offer.

## ▣ Rivershed News



### Race the River▣

**We did it!** Race the River wrapped up on Sunday, July 3rd, with an outstanding total of 10,456.7 kilometers, which is equivalent to just over 7 laps of the Fraser River! Once again, we achieved our goal and are blown away by the enthusiasm and support we received. THANK YOU! We hope everyone who participated came away feeling more connected to the watershed. Every kilometre logged, activity performed, and location explored has brought us closer to building a community invested in the resiliency of the Fraser River. Thank you to everyone who participated and to our generous sponsor [Odium Brown Limited](#).

## Species Spotlight



## Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program

This week, we would love to share two recent species spotlights from the Foodlands corridor on the s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm (Salmon River).

Douglas Spirea (łecəłp / Tá:ts'elhp in the local həńq̓əmińəń and Halq'eméylem dialects of the Halkomelem language) is one of the species we have planted. These shrubs form a dense thicket that can help increase bank stabilization, reduce erosion, and provide cover for wildlife species. The beautiful pink flowers are important for pollinators such as hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.

The Pacific Water Shrew (xsʔətətət in həńq̓əmińəń) is one of the species whose habitat is being restored at the site. These shrews are the world's smallest diving mammals. They prefer habitats of skunk cabbage near small streams with dense riparian cover and downed wood. This species is listed as endangered in British Columbia as urban development, agriculture, and forestry have impacted their habitat. The team from Kerr Wood Leidal has been conducting species-at-risk surveys at the site, focused on ground-truthing vegetation types to inform Pacific Water Shrew habitat suitability. Generally, the surveys involve trapping, but since these shrews have a very high metabolism and are sensitive to trapping, it is not being completed as part of this survey.

Translations were provided by knowledge keepers and speakers from Kwantlen and Katzie Nations. [Learn more həńq̓əmińəń and Halq'eméylem names for what we've planted at the s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm Foodlands corridor here.](#)

## News from the Watershed

### The Climate Aid Arts Brigade – New Podcast

The Climate Aid Arts Brigade puts the arts into service to help safeguard the future. [Explore the first 8 episodes of the first season of the podcast.](#)

## A Victory for the Environment & Oceans ☐☐

The Canadian Government has announced Canadian plastic manufacturers have until the end of 2022 to halt production of newly banned plastics and until 2023 to stop selling them. Learn more about Oceana Canada's efforts to achieve this significant milestone [here](#).

## Heavy Rainfall, Slow Snowmelt Helps Marine Life Thrive in B.C. ❄️☐



Biologists say salmon and marine life are thriving with the colder than average temperatures and rising water levels. [Read more here](#).

## Strawberry Island Threatened by Development ☐☐

Strawberry Island, an important floodplain island, is in imminent danger of being removed from the floodplain forever by development. Take action to defend this vital habitat using [this letter-writing tool](#) from our friends at Code Blue.

## B.C. Fish Farm Licenses Renewed Outside Discovery Islands ☐



The federal government extended dozens of salmon farm licenses that were set to expire at the end of June, while they undertake a consultation process with industry and First Nations on a transition plan. [This article](#) highlights the implications of the decision.

## DFO's Pathogen Containment Measures 'A Joke,' Say Salmon Scientists ☐⚠️

Wild salmon advocates say interim rules meant to strengthen the reporting of pathogens in farmed salmon and monitor nearby wild populations amount to 'tiny tweaks' and are full of regulatory holes. [Learn more](#).

## Feds Called Out Over Lack of Action to Save Ecologically

### Sensitive Fish Habitat on Fraser River ☐☐

Destruction of prime salmon and sturgeon spawning habitat at Gill Bar, near Chilliwack, continues. Watch the story [here](#).

## B.C. Eagle Deaths on the Rise - Cause Remains Unknown, Province to Investigate☐☐

[In this article](#), wildlife expert David Hancock explains concern over the outbreak of avian flu in BC and how it could be contributing to a dramatic drop in young eagles and other wild birds in the southwestern part of the province. The province is starting to monitor and collect data to understand the causes behind the low nesting success rate. [Learn more here](#).

## Music for Conservation ☐☐

The Wood Brothers, a Grammy-nominated trio that has collaborated with headliners like the Zac Brown Band, have partnered with the Nature Trust of BC to raise funds

for conservation. Read about it [here](#)

## ▮ Events

### Community Conservation Program (Squamish) ▮

**Tuesdays and Saturdays (July and August).** Connect with natural spaces and local conservation-focused organizations through this joint effort run by the Squamish River Watershed Society & the Squamish Streamkeepers. Locations and dates can be found [here](#).

### River Basin Days – Nature Boats (Maple Ridge) ▮

**July 9.** Head to Jerry Sulina Park to build your own nature boats and sail away with the Fraser River Discovery Centre. Pre-registration is required, click [here](#) for details.

### Flooding on the Fraser (New Westminster) ▮

**July 23.** Discover how to predict and prepare for extreme weather events! Learn how to model river processes on a stream table, and design more resilient infrastructure, like buildings, bridges, and roads. While everyone is welcome, this workshop is aimed at families with children aged six (6) and older. More info is available [here](#).

## ▮ Opportunities

The Central Coast Indigenous Resource Alliance (CCIRA) is hiring a [Marine Planning and Marine Plan Partnership Implementation Coordinator](#).

The BC Wildlife Federation is looking for a [Fish Habitat Restoration and Education Program Assistant](#).

The Endangered Ecosystem Alliance is hiring an [Endangered Ecosystems Campaigner](#).

Stanley Park Ecology Society is hiring a new [Education Manager](#).

The City of Richmond is looking for an [Outdoor Education Children's Program Instructor](#).

Ecotrust Canada is hiring a [Climate Innovation Program Manager](#).

The Thompson Rivers University Student's Union is hiring an [Equity Coordinator](#).

The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society is looking for a new [Williams Lake Program Coordinator](#).

The BC Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is hiring a [Conservation Research and Policy Coordinator](#).

This newsletter is full of content provided by **YOU**, and we can't thank you enough for sharing!

Please continue sending us any news, events or opportunities that you would like to promote throughout the watershed as we continue to build a network of Watershed Defenders.

If you want any content included in our next Newsletter, [please email us the details](#) by July 18th! 😊



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