



Hello everyone, this is Richelle Giberson, Rivershed's Director of Communications and Design. Some of you will recognize my name as I've been involved with Rivershed since 2005, but my work is mostly behind the scenes (or screens, to be specific) so I'm sure my face is new to many of you. 😊 I will be writing and sending the newsletters for the next month or so while we work to fill our current **Social Media Content Creator** opening and the new hire gets up to speed. We are excited to have new talent joining our team soon!

Speaking of Rivershed's team, please join Rivershed in extending a warm welcome to our newest team member, Nicole Jang, who is joining us as our **AFER Network** Coordinator.



Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Nicole has always looked forward to summer vacations in Vancouver on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, where she would spend most of her time swimming in the ocean. Nicole's desire to be near and work for the natural environment drew her to the University of British Columbia to obtain a BA in Geography, with a focus in Environment and Sustainability. After an exchange year in Sweden, she became interested in international environmental initiatives and completed her MSc in Environmental Management and Physical Planning at Stockholm University. Her thesis led Nicole back to Canada, where she wrote about facilitating the equitable implementation of green infrastructure in the City of Vancouver. Her passion for environmental justice motivates her to work for equitable, sustainable, and resilient communities and ecosystems.

Nicole is thrilled to be joining the Rivershed team and contributing to collaborative efforts around the ecological resilience of the Fraser Watershed. In her free time, you

can find her hiking, swimming, and singing a cappella with her friends.

News from the Watershed

BC's 'southern resident' orcas have been wandering far from home. Will they return this year?

The Southern Resident Killer Whale family known as J pod have been swimming far away from their typical Salish Sea feeding grounds in recent years. The majority of J pod's diet is Fraser River chinook salmon, which is in steep decline. The article states, "Since 2013, the J pod has been straying from the Salish Sea because its largest adjacent river, the Fraser, has all but gone dry of spring and early summer chinook. As other rivers likewise lose salmon, despair thickens amid the J-pod faithful." [Read the full Macleans article here.](#)

BC Supreme Court releases legal ruling on the impacts of the Kenney Dam on food fisheries in the Nechako River.

The Sai'kuz First Nation and the Stelat'en First Nation have been waiting for a decision since 2011, when the court case was first filed in BC Supreme Court. Late last week, the judge dismissed the First Nations' bid to force Rio Tinto Alcan to change the flow of a river to benefit fish stocks decimated by the construction of a dam on the Nechako river, but says First Nations have the right to sue 3rd parties involved. [Read more.](#)



Commercial purse seine fishers haul their net while fishing for pink and chum salmon in the

T̕ilhqot'in Nation is calling on the Canadian government to take action over reports Alaskan fishers are intercepting BC-bound salmon.

The call comes a day after the release of a report, commissioned by Watershed Watch Salmon Society and SkeenaWild Conservation Trust, that says Alaskan fishers caught 800,000 sockeye in 2021 along the U.S.-Canada border. Of those, over half a million intercepted salmon were returning home to B.C.'s Skeena and Nass rivers. [Full article here.](#)

Road salt that makes winter driving safer may be killing salmon in the Lower Mainland.

Research has generally shown road salt to be detrimental to local streams, and governments even acknowledge that. [Read more about the research and its findings in this Burnaby Beacon article.](#)

The devastating mudslides that follow forest fires:

Regions that never used to burn are now suffering from forest fires — and that raises the risks of dangerous mudslides that are hard to predict. [Read more.](#)

"Eat a farmed fish, save a wild fish." and other open net fish farm myths busted.

Sea Choice scrutinizes the food security impacts of aquaculture industry growth and long-standing salmon farming myths in [this document.](#)



Pitt Meadows man lobbies for better flood protections

Atmospheric rivers and subsequent flooding bring local pump station issues to surface, again. [Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows News article](#).

Experience the Fraser River estuary in the Raincoast Conservation Society's new 360° video

Experience the Fraser River Estuary is a video lesson for students in Grades 9-12 - or any age! This newly-released project is geared toward in-class learning and provides students with an opportunity to use smartphones or tablets while immersing themselves in unique coastal habitats and learning about conservation in action. There is also a prepared lesson plan, [check it out!](#)

Climate change and logging contributing to demise of Pacific salmon

Experts say a reassessment of watershed logging and restoration practices will be key to helping struggling fish populations. [Read the article](#).

Events

Green Collar Futures Career Conference

Green Bricks is hosting this FREE event for grade 9-12 students.

February 12th, 2022, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

[Sign up here.](#)



The poster features a scenic background of a river flowing through mountains under a cloudy sky. At the top left, there are two logos: the Rivershed Society of BC logo and the Pacific Salmon Foundation logo. The main title 'HEART OF THE FRASER Strategy Session' is centered in a bold, dark font. Below the title, a paragraph of text describes the session as a webinar and strategy session for developing a collaborative conservation strategy. A white box with a black border contains the date and time: 'January 25th, 2022 9AM - 4PM (PST)'. At the bottom, it says 'via zoom'.

Heart of the Fraser strategy session

Join us for a [webinar and strategy session](#), hosted by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and Rivershed, to begin developing a collaborative conservation strategy for the Heart of the Fraser (the region of the Fraser River between Hope and Mission).

January 25th, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

[More info.](#)

Opportunities

The **Alpine Club of Canada** is offering [grants and scholarships](#) for mountain-climbing and alpine adventures, stewardship, learning and leadership.

Rivershed is looking for a [Social Media Content Creator](#) with excellent writing skills.

Sea Change is hiring an [Executive Director](#).

West Coast Environmental Law is hiring two [Environmental and Indigenous Rights Lawyers](#) to join their Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air & Water team.

Kerr Wood Leidal is hiring for [seven different positions](#) based out of their Burnaby office.

The **Water Rangers** is looking for a [BC Water Quality Community Coordinator](#) between 15-30 years old.

The **Georgia Strait Alliance** is hiring a remote short-term [Communications Assistant](#) between 15-30 years old.

Thank you for tuning in to Rivershed's newsletter! If you have Fraser Watershed news or events you would like to share with our network, please [send me an email](#). I would love to help you get the word out!

If you would like to help us connect, protect and restore the Fraser Watershed, please [support our work](#).



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