

Yesterday (June 21) was National Indigenous Peoples Day, a day set aside to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada. The Fraser Watershed has a significant legacy that is deeply intertwined with the Indigenous peoples whose ancestral lands we inhabit, work on, and learn from. Today we are highlighting two remarkable Indigenous-led restoration initiatives taking place within the watershed:

[Upper Pitt River watershed restoration](#) - The Katzie First Nation is leading restoration efforts for important spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, sockeye and coho salmon populations throughout the Upper Pitt watershed.

[Elephant Hill fire riparian restoration project](#) - The Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society is leading this work, with a focus on replanting forests alongside streams and rivers that provide a vital function to the health of the aquatic ecosystem.

Know of other indigenous-led restoration projects happening in the Fraser Watershed? [Send them to us, we'd love to hear about them!](#)



## **Two exciting Foodlands updates to share!**

We are thrilled Rivershed was awarded an [Edge Walker Prize](#) and the Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program is now part of the esteemed [Edgewalker Community!](#)

As a result, the program was featured in an article in Canada's National Observer. Read it here: [Communities band together to save the river that sustains them.](#)

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# YOUTH CANOE TRIP 2023

**Join us for a day of paddling on August 12th or 13th, 2023! Each day will be a separate event for youth, aged 13-25!**

**Register Here:** 

Please send any questions to [nwrcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nwrcoordinator@gmail.com)  
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## Headwaters to Sea River Clinics: Connecting the Fraser Watershed

Nechako Watershed Roundtable and Rivershed are collaborating on a guided canoe trip of the Nechako River and are inviting youth (aged 13-25) from the Nechako Watershed to participate!

This Vanderhoof-based event will bring youth together to learn about the Nechako Watershed and the initiatives, communities and organizations working to make it a healthier place.

There are 16 spots available on each day of the trip and youth will be invited to participate in one day of canoeing (either August 12th or August 13th) as well as a celebratory barbecue on August 12th. No previous paddling experience is required. [Register here by August 1.](#)



Juvenile salmon. Photo by Fernando Lessa.

**New blog post: [Learn more about the salmon lifecycle.](#)**



### **Rivershed & Orca Conservancy giveaway winner announced!**

Congratulations to @amb3rwi1son on Instagram for winning our collaborative giveaway with the Orca Conservancy! We hope you enjoy your prize pack!

## **News from the Watershed**

### **First Nation near Hope to help manage Fraser River debris trap**

Trap captured recreational vehicles and sundecks following November 2021 atmospheric river. [Read more.](#)

### **B.C. conservationists, labour unions, First Nations unite in opposition to marine terminal expansion**

Multiple groups hold news conference to denounce expansion, citing environmental degradation, job losses. [Read the story.](#)

## **Public urged to reduce water use, stay out of streams**

Jason Hwang with the Pacific Salmon Foundation says there are some small actions people can take to reduce the impacts on the salmon, as B.C.'s Ministry of Forests warns about the risk of drought conditions across the province. [Listen to the CBC radio segment.](#)

## **Hope flows from action: Rebuilding with resilient foundations in B.C.'s Fraser Canyon Region**

Policy approaches can help build—and rebuild—communities so they are resilient to the weather of today and tomorrow. [Read the paper](#) from the Canadian Climate Institute.

## **Meet 'CollecThor': Richmond's new tool to clean up the Fraser River**

The trash skimmer lives on the side of the Fisherman's Wharf dock and the city plans to have it running daily to collect debris from the marina. [Meet CollecThor.](#)

## **B.C. scientist, fishing group concerned about gravel removal from salmon-spawning river**

A group of fish and wildlife advocates in the Fraser Valley are raising the alarm about a provincial government plan to dig sediment out of the Vedder Canal during a pink salmon spawning year. [Read more.](#)

## **Province builds on unprecedented investment in wild salmon recovery**

To mark B.C. Wild Salmon Day, the provincial government is providing more than \$17 million for wild salmon restoration throughout the province to ensure present and future generations of British Columbians enjoy the benefits of this iconic species. [Learn more](#) about this funding.

## **How to unbuild an urban island**

At the mouth of the Fraser sits highly developed xʷəyeyət or Iona Island. Can it be transformed to save salmon? [Read more.](#)

## **Healthy Watersheds Initiative launches graphic novel, We Are of Water**

Illustrated by Chenoa Gao, We Are of Water provides visuals connected to voices and knowledge shared by Indigenous Elders, youth, and community members through Healthy Watershed Initiative projects on the significance of watersheds and water. They have also created a colouring book version of the graphic novel to inspire creativity and allow readers to connect more intimately with the work and messages. [Check it out!](#)

## **Almost 3 million salmon migrated past the Big Bar slide area in 2022**

Work at the Big Bar Landslide north of Lillooet is entering its fourth year. [Read more.](#)



## Events

### Sturgeon Survival (New Westminster)

**June 24.** Join the Fraser River Discovery Centre to take a look at the largest fish that inhabit the Fraser River – white sturgeon! [More information.](#)

### Explore Water Monitoring with Swim Drink Fish (Vancouver)

**June 28.** Join Swim Drink Fish for a hands-on learning opportunity to monitor water quality, learn about water quality issues, make informed decisions, and get involved in protecting your water! [RSVP here.](#)

### Steveston Salmon Festival (Richmond)

**July 1.** The annual Steveston Salmon Festival is Richmond's largest event, drawing tens of thousands of visitors to the community. Enjoy the Salmon Festival parade, musical entertainment, historical and cultural programs and displays, and lots of food! [Details here.](#)

### Habitat Happenings! (New Westminster)

**July 1 - 3.** Join the Fraser River Discovery Centre to learn about the incredible variety of animals, from salmon to the zooplankton that nourish the river delta, during July's [Summer Discovery Days!](#)

### Youth Canoe Trip (Vanderhoof)

**August 12 & 13.** Nechako Watershed Roundtable and Rivershed are collaborating on a guided canoe trip of the Nechako River and inviting youth (aged 13-25) from the Nechako Watershed to participate. [More information.](#)

## Opportunities

**Sierra Club BC** is looking for a [Development Officer.](#)

**Surrey's Natural Areas Partnership** is hiring a [Fall Field Team Leader and a Fall Field Team member.](#)

**BC Conservation Foundation** is looking for [Bat Field Technicians.](#)

**Watershed Watch** is looking for an [Outreach and Engagement Assistant.](#)

Our Rivershed Stories newsletter is full of content provided by YOU, and we can't thank you enough for sharing! Please continue to [send us news, events or opportunities](#) that you would like to promote throughout the watershed as we continue to build the Watershed Movement.



Aleena Oates  
Communications Coordinator & Logistics Assistant  
Rivershed Society of BC



### Show your love for salmon

Donate \$50 and we will send you one of these sockeye salmon pins!

**DONATE NOW**



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Rivershed acknowledges our position as a settler-led organization on Indigenous, and often unceded, untreated land in what is today called British Columbia, Canada. Our organization works to understand the responsibilities of this privilege, and we aim to engage, promote, and support Indigenous-led work to connect, protect, and restore (Watershed CPR) the Watershed.

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