

Welcome to the October edition of Rivershed Stories. The Fraser Watershed had a tough time this summer, with wildfires and droughts testing its resilience. Still, we are heartened by the incredible journey of salmon during spawning season—a sign of nature's unwavering strength. We hope you get a chance to witness the awe-inspiring occurrence of salmon spawning season.



Did you know some salmon will travel as far as 3,000 kilometres to reach their spawning grounds? [Read more about the salmon lifecycle in our blog post.](#) Coho salmon photo by Fernando Lessa.

Dive in and explore current Watershed News stories, the latest Foodlands program updates, the Watershed CPR Education Program, and creepy but cool critters in the Fraser Watershed. Additionally, as we do in every edition of Rivershed Stories, we're sharing environmental employment and grant opportunities, as well as upcoming regional events that offer you a chance to connect in the watershed.

Thank you for reading and being a part of the movement to protect and restore the Fraser! Please spread the word by sharing this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues. The more people who join the watershed movement, the greater our collective impact on the health and resiliency of the Fraser Watershed.



Photo by Emily Pearson.

Fall planting at the Foodlands corridor along the s̓c̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm (Salmon River)* is complete!

Earlier this month, s̓əy̓er̓m Qwantlen, @lepslangley, Kwantlen Land Guardians and volunteers joined us at the Foodlands project sites along the s̓c̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm (Salmon River)* corridor to plant Chewō:lhp / cəw̓i:ɬp (Black Cottonwood)*, X̓éltsepelhp / x̓eleʔəɬp (Willow)*, Red Alder, Bigleaf Maple and Th'exwíyelhp / tʰəxʷiyəɬp (Red Osier Dogwood)*.

We will monitor the plants through the winter and provide an update in the spring. In the meantime, to learn more about this restoration work taking place in the shared territory of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo and Matsqui Nations download the s̓c̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm Corridor document at www.rivershed.com/foodlands.

*Capitalized translations are Halq'eméylem (the Upriver dialect of the broader language of Halkomelem), and the lower case words are hən̓q̓əmi̓h̓ən̓ (the Downriver dialect). Halkomelem translation provided by knowledge keepers and speakers from the Kwantlen and Katzie Nations.



Pacific lamprey photo by Sean Connolly, [USFWS via Flickr](#).

Bats, zombie salmon and river monsters, oh my!

With Halloween just around the corner, we want to highlight some of the 'scary species' that can be found in the Fraser Watershed. Check out our most recent blog post: [Creepy but cool critters in the Fraser Watershed](#).



Dynamic, self-guided learning with the Watershed CPR Education Program

Can you identify eleven species of flora and fauna that can be found in the Fraser Watershed in this image? For the answers, and to learn more about the flora and fauna found in the Fraser Watershed, explore our free [Virtual Watershed CPR Education Program](#).

News from the Watershed

Fall's cold arrival hasn't shaken off the impact of B.C.'s months-long drought

Rain bringing 'improvements' to south coast but hasn't arrived in central, northeast: [river forecast centre](#).

'The money that's needed': B.C. announces \$300-million Indigenous conservation fund to protect old-growth forests

The new funding is welcomed by conservation groups that say the province has voiced support for old forest protections while continuing to allow clearcut logging in rare ecosystems and in the habitat of endangered species. [Read the story](#).

State of emergency extended in central B.C. village as threat of water shortage looms

'We are at a critical level that we have never been at before,' says McBride mayor. [More](#)

TNG reasserts mining policy for mineral exploration in Chilcotin

TNG said it aims to provide certainty, protect environment, for mining in T̓silhqot̓in territory. [Read the story](#).

Prince George added to BC Bird Trail

Being added to the BC Bird Trail gives the city more visibility as a place to visit for bird watchers, outdoor enthusiasts, and nature lovers. [More](#).

Squamish Nation requests Mount Garibaldi name change to honour Indigenous roots

The Squamish Nation is asking the B.C. government to officially rename Mount Garibaldi as Nch'kay̓, which is how they have traditionally referred to the mountain. [Watch/read the story](#).

B.C. volunteers race to rescue stranded salmon in Fraser Canyon by hand

Water levels on the Fraser River are so low this year, First Nations and residents around Lillooet are lifting fish by hand, desperate to help them reach spawning grounds upstream. [Watch/read](#).

Trans Mountain route change will 'desecrate' sacred site: Secwépemc knowledge keeper

A Secwépemc law called X7ensq̓'t says that if you disrespect the land and don't take care of it properly, the land and the sky will turn on you. [Article here](#).

Show us the money, communities tell province as B.C. flood strategy delayed to mid-2024

Southern B.C. and Interior communities were devastated by deadly 2021 flooding that caused billions of dollars in damage, displaced tens of thousands of people, ripped out bridges, and washed away homes and roads. [Read the story](#).

Canada rejects emergency order to save endangered spotted owls

'It's like the rug was totally pulled out from under us,' says the Chief of Spuzzum First Nation as cabinet quashes Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault's recommendation to protect spotted owl habitat from logging. [Read the story.](#)

Study: UBCO researcher examines how wildfires can transform rivers

After wildfire, the devastation to the landscape and communities is obvious and unforgettable. [More info.](#)

'Hard to believe it's real': B.C.'s energy regulator repeatedly gave Coastal GasLink a pass on alleged environmental infractions

The BC Energy Regulator was given sweeping powers over a suite of provincial laws designed to protect the environment and cultural heritage but documents reveal its compliance and enforcement officers rarely exercised those powers following inspections of Coastal GasLink construction sites. [Read the story.](#)

Study: The best way to restore ecosystems is to listen to Indigenous peoples

However, outdated science and views leads many researchers to ignore traditional knowledge. [Learn more.](#)

How saving Cariboo-Chilcotin grasslands could help us adapt to changing climate

Grassland conservation could be even more critical as heat, drought, wildfires worsen. [Read it here.](#)

Hundreds sign petition opposed to industrial barge berth at popular Fraser River park

Metro Vancouver says berth will support construction of new wastewater treatment plant. [Read the article.](#)

Conservationists raise concerns over B.C.'s proposed grizzly bear stewardship plan

Grizzly bears seen starving in the rainforests of British Columbia's south coast because there isn't enough salmon to sustain them raises alarm bells for wildlife biologist Wayne McCrory, who's known as a leading bear expert in Canada. [Article here.](#)

Increase in logging draws concern in Horsefly

As salvage logging nears its end in the Chilcotin, companies turn their focus east of Fraser River. [Read more.](#)

After avoiding a disastrous season, concern remains for salmon population

The river levels along the Thompson River are on par with the lowest on record, and are currently two metres below their average for mid-October. [Watch.](#)

B.C. and Washington state to collaborate on flood risk and salmon habitat initiative

The atmospheric river of 2021 highlights the need to work together to reduce risk, minister says. [Read the article.](#)

As drought dries up B.C. rivers, conservationists turn to beavers for help

Shallower, warmer waters will harm fish, people dependent on rivers for livelihood: water stewardship society. [Read the story.](#)

Canoe journey ‘a wake-up call’ on water for Fraser River salmon habitat

Paddlers went from Cheam, to Shxwhá:y Village near Chilliwack, and to Matsqui for Coastal Jam. [Photos and story here.](#)

Watch: The quest to clean up abandoned boats from B.C. waters

Hundreds of derelict watercraft are in B.C. oceans and rivers, posing an ecological risk. [Watch.](#)

Fraser River tidal marsh cleanup team launches Phase Two

Consumer and industrial waste keeps piling up in fish-bearing estuary. [Story here.](#)

Quesnel River Research Centre hosts open house for Cariboo area

Community updated on work centre is doing and toured facility. [Read more.](#)

Transfer of natural resource ministerial responsibilities

Regulatory orders confirm transfers of natural-resource responsibilities between ministries to align with government priorities of reconciliation, resource stewardship and strong, sustainable economic development for people and communities. [BC Gov info bulletin.](#)

Events

Mushroom Explorer Days (Merrit, Thompson)

October 28. Join NatureKids BC for a fall mushroom walk with Michael Ebenal from Forest Moon Fungi. Looking forward to seeing you and your family out in the forest! Wear a Halloween costume and win a prize! [Register here.](#)

Hunter’s Moon Festival at ʔéxətəm Colony Farm Park (Coquitlam, Lower Fraser)

October 28. Join Colony Farm Park Association and Wondrous Tree Fellowship for a day of free live music, art, interactive displays and activities, warm apple cider and nature. There will be a percussion circle as the sun goes down and the full moon comes into view. [Details.](#)

Halloween at the FRDC (New Westminster, Lower Fraser)

October 28 – 29. Can you make it past all the invasive species haunting the Fraser River basin? Dare to explore the unknown lurking beneath the surface in our haunted

house then face the microscopic world where decomposers rule. Join the Fraser River Discovery Centre this Saturday! [More info.](#)

Ecosystem Restoration Day (Lillooet, Fraser Canyon)

October 29. Join the Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society and the Lillooet Naturalist Society for the last ecosystem restoration day of the year. Help get 100+ native plants in the ground! [Details here.](#)

Spook-O at Scout Island (Williams Lake, Cariboo Chilcotin)

October 29. Join the Cariboo Chilcotin Orienteering Club at Scout Island Nature Center for a family-friendly, costume encouraged (prizes for best) orienteering course. There will be control flags placed at locations around Scout Island. You will use a map to locate them and collect points. [Register here.](#)

Invasive Species Workshop (Maple Ridge, Lower Fraser)

October 29. What's spookier than an invasive species? Join the Alouette River Management Society and Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver in a fun and interactive invasive plant removal workshop. Pizza and snacks provided to volunteers, and bonus points for cool costumes! [Register here.](#)

Vital Signs: Checking our Watershed's Health (Coquitlam, Lower Fraser)

November 2. Join the Coquitlam River Watershed Society for an evening of short presentations on the state of our Watershed. Learn from experts about fish populations, water quantity and quality, and more. [Register here.](#)

Nechako Watershed Roundtable Annual Meeting (Vanderhoof, Nechako)

November 7. This event, entitled "Fire, Flood & Drought: Climate Adaptation in the Nechako Watershed" will feature a panel and speaker series on how major climatic events have impacted the people, environment and industry in the Nechako Watershed. [Register here.](#)

Season of the Wild (Harrison, Fraser Canyon)

November 18 – 19. Gather at the Kilby Historic Site as the living history site goes "Wild" this weekend in November. The salmon have arrived. Visit our Log Cabin to taste salmon, make a bird-friendly craft, and roast your own damper/bannock over an open fire. Family fun for all. [More info.](#)

Opportunities

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is now accepting applications for [Fish and Wildlife grants.](#)

Sitka foundation is now accepting applications for the [Messengers of Biodiversity Reporting grant.](#)

NatureKids BC is accepting applications for the [Green Club Joseph Lin Legacy Fund](#)

[Scholarship.](#)

Fraser Basin Council is accepting applications for the [First Nations Caribou Recovery Implementation Fund](#).

Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society is looking for a [Wildlife Educator](#).

British Columbia Conservation Foundation is looking for an [Office Administer](#).

Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources is hiring a [Species at Risk Community Liaison](#).

Shuswap Band is looking for an [Intermediate Fisheries Biologist](#).

Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance is hiring for [multiple positions](#).

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 connect the Watershed Movement.



Richelle Giberson
Director of Communications & Design
Rivershed Society of BC



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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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