



Annual Report 2023

Report from the Chair

In 2023, Rivershed reached many important milestones in our pursuit to Connect, Protect and Restore the Watershed. In addition to having Board representation that represented every Fraser Watershed region, we've had staff stationed in the Upper, Middle, and Lower Fraser. These connections have allowed us to expand collaborative partner work and gain local knowledge, which has already increased our ability to conduct outreach and start new restoration work.

Our board and staff have worked together, with other organizations and key individuals across the watershed to benefit the health of the Fraser River from headwaters to sea. Some notable achievements we have seen this year include enhancing habitat for species at risk along the s̓c̓ e:łx̓w̓əy̓ əm Corridor, creating a platform and content for the Watershed CPR Dashboard, Connecting the Watershed Movement, and successfully completing paddles along the Nechako River, Horsefly Lake, and the Lower Fraser River. We connected with more than 50 organizations, governments, or businesses working on Watershed CPR in the Fraser Watershed and had 90 community members out on the water.

As the interim chair, I would like to thank Rivershed's highly engaged and skilled Board of Directors for their support this past year, particularly those of you who went above and beyond to get involved in various Board Committees or took on additional roles within their community. I'd also like to say a big thank you to our dedicated staff, who consistently have been supporting the success of Rivershed's Mission across a range of portfolios. Our achievements would not be possible without any of you. To our donors, members, volunteers, and supporters: thank you. Your tireless support and wealth of knowledge have been invaluable contributions to ensure we can continue to advance our Watershed CPR, to Connect, Protect, and Restore this place we call home.

While I step down from the interim chair role, I know I leave behind a great Board filled with passion and excitement for this next year.

I look forward to seeing our staff and board members continue their support of Rivershed's programming and advocacy for CPR in the next year. I know that 2024 and 2025 will be defined by several key events, the ongoing growth of our programs, and the continuation of our on-the-water activities. I am excited to see what we will accomplish!



Sierra Rae
Chair of the Board (interim)

Executive Director Report

2023 was another year of exciting collaborations for Rivershed both on the water and on the land through Foodlands, the Watershed CPR Dashboard, Headwaters to Sea paddles, and efforts to grow the Watershed Movement. These programs reiterated the impact of bringing communities together to connect to the watershed and each other, and the importance of doing these things through a UNDRIP lens.

Connect a Movement

In 2023, Rivershed staff continued to re-build our on-the-water programming and were joined by people across the watershed for paddles including First Nations community members, youth, Government officials, donors, volunteers, and collaborators.

In August, we cohosted a 25-km paddle along the Nechako River, in the traditional territory of the Saik'uz First Nation, with the Nechako Watershed Roundtable. This paddle spanned two days and included 14 youth from the Nechako region. In September, we piloted a new paddle day on Horsefly Lake, in the traditional territory of the Secwépemc First Nation, in conjunction with the Horsefly Salmon Festival, guest paddlers included people from across the Cariboo-Chilcotin region working on Watershed CPR. We wrapped up our paddling for the year with three days on the Lower Fraser, with the final day on World/BC Rivers Day. These three days saw us navigating through the beautiful shared, unceded territories of the Stó:lō, Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, Matsqui, Kwikwetlem, Qayqayt, Musqueam and Tsawwassen First Nations.



Connect a Movement (continued)

Staff also attended events across the watershed and connected with local groups to learn about regional Watershed CPR efforts. All of this work was made possible due to the dedication of our team, including new Regional Representatives stationed in the Upper, Mid, and Lower Fraser Regions, who have been an invaluable source of local knowledge. We are excited for them to get back out into the community in 2024 – look for them at your local community events!



Elise engages with community members at RiverFest in New Westminster. Photo by: Emily Pearson.

Connect a Movement (continued)

Virtually, our Watershed CPR Education Platform continues to be popular, and the *Rivershed Stories* newsletter continues to connect people across the watershed through news, opportunities and stories.

We continue to play leadership roles in the BC Watershed Security Coalition and the Canadian Coalition for Healthy Waters. These groups are critical for bringing people together to make the shared vision of a healthy, resilient watershed a reality by underlining our common goals and collaboratively working to ensure funding for these goals exists. These strategic Government Relations efforts not only act as a united voice for funding for BC watersheds, but they also ensure Rivershed's presence at critical discussions on watershed health.

We also provided feedback on the BC Flood Strategy Intentions Paper, the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Intentions Paper, the transfer of Ministerial Responsibilities to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and participated in Federal and Provincial Budget Consultations.

Protect 30% and Restore 2.4% of the Watershed

Protection and restoration are key to our vision of a resilient Fraser Watershed, and we know these efforts have the most impact when they are done in a coordinated manner. The Watershed CPR Dashboard and Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program both help build collaboration and demonstrate a coordinated vision of restoration and protection.

The Watershed CPR Dashboard, launching in 2024, will bring regions together and elevate existing and proposed protection areas and restoration projects throughout the watershed. The isolated decision-making approach to watershed health and restoration isn't working. The Dashboard aims to bridge that gap by visually demonstrating a coordinated vision of a protected and restored Fraser Watershed. In 2023, we worked with Cicada Creative to develop a platform for this vision. We also connected with over 60 organizations working on restoration and protection across the watershed to collect data.



Protect 30% & Restore 2.4% of the Watershed (continued)

The Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program continues to expand and evolve alongside the natural growth it fosters. In 2023, work was done to enhance habitat along the s̓c̓e:łx̓w̓ə́y̓əm (Salmon River)* Corridor for Species at Risk. Bat boxes were installed at one of the sites to provide roosting and nesting space for little brown bats, and bigleaf maple were planted as they provide critical habitat for w̓ə́q̓əq̓ (Oregon forest snail)*. We applied for and received permits to do construction at two more sites along the s̓c̓e:łx̓w̓ə́y̓əm Corridor in 2024. The success of the Corridor has given us the opportunity to share the Foodlands program's efforts with the community, in the form of land-based learning tours. The s̓c̓e:łx̓w̓ə́y̓əm Corridor is thriving because of strong collaborative relationships with s̓ə́y̓er̓n̓ Qwantlen (the business subsidiary of Kwantlen First Nation), Langley Environmental Partners Society, Kerr Wood Leidal, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance, and multiple agricultural landholders along the river. In 2023, we developed a Toolkit to demonstrate the importance of relationship-building and decolonization for restoration work and we will be publicly releasing it in 2024.

*h̓ə́h̓q̓ə́m̓i̓h̓əm̓ (Downriver dialect of Halkomelem) translation provided by Knowledge Keepers and language learners from the Kwantlen and Katzie Nations.



Protect 30% & Restore 2.4% of the Watershed (continued)

In addition to work along the *s̓c̓e:łxʷəy̓əm* Corridor, the Foodlands team visited the Nechako region during the youth paddle. We made connections in the region that set us up well to begin work on a Nechako Corridor in 2024.

In 2023, Rivershed's Foodlands Program was awarded the prestigious [Edge Prize](#) for Ecological Restoration and became an esteemed member of the renowned Edgewalker Community, which brings together visionaries, pioneers, and entrepreneurs from 'Salmon Nation' across the Pacific Northwest. Through the Edgewalker Community, we can engage with other distinguished members, fostering knowledge exchange and mutual learning. This notable recognition also garnered attention from prominent media outlets such as [Canada's National Observer](#) and the [Georgia Straight](#), both of which wrote feature articles about Foodlands, spotlighting its significant contributions to environmental stewardship and sustainability.

In August, we accepted an invitation to become an Actor in the #GenerationRestoration movement, driving positive changes on the ground through ecosystem restoration initiatives. The [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) is a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, for the benefit of people and nature.



Looking to the Future

2023 saw several important changes that strengthen Rivershed for 2024. Our Regional Representatives are excited to start attending community events, making connections, and building relationships. These connections will be critical to the successful launch and expansion of the Watershed CPR Dashboard. Foodlands plans to work on two sites along the Nechako this year, as well as two additional sites along the *s̓c̓e:łxw̓əy̓əm* Corridor. With the help of outreach through the newsletter and social channels, we are also making new connections and finding new potential project locations.

In 2024, we will continue to collaborate across the Fraser Watershed to work towards a future where salmon, people, and economies are flourishing in rivershed communities. We will take intentional steps to advance the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in a meaningful way. The organization is constantly learning and doing our best to create safe, inclusive spaces for open dialogue and collaboration to create a resilient Fraser Watershed.

THANK YOU!

We deeply appreciate the dedication of Rivershed's Board of Directors, staff, and supporters, without whom achievements wouldn't be possible. The guidance and support from the Board keeps us focused on strategic goals, and we are thankful for their commitment. A special acknowledgment goes to the entire Rivershed Team; we know how lucky Rivershed is to have each of you. We extend gratitude to all funders, donors, members, collaborators, and volunteers whose unwavering dedication contributes to Rivershed's success. We couldn't do this without you.



Justine Nelson
Executive Director



Roberta Webster
Director, Strategic Initiatives
& Government Relations

Thank You to Our 2023 Donors:

Donors

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Organization

Lilloet Naturalist Society
Rivertec

Stave Lake, Lower Fraser Region.

Thank You to Our 2023 Funders:

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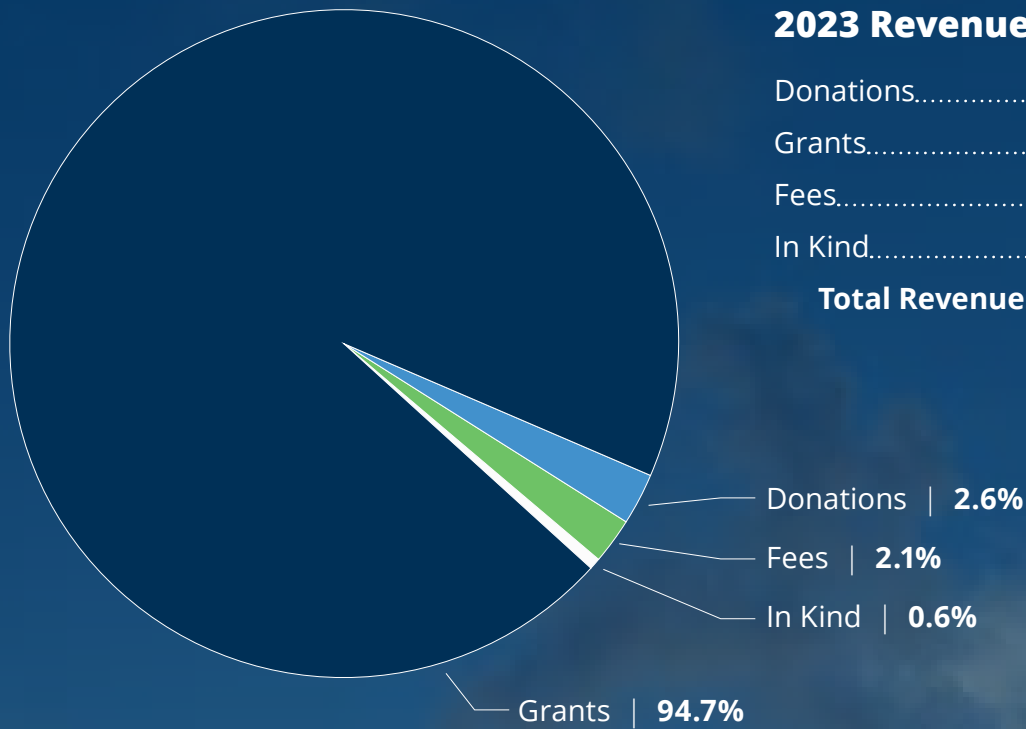


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Financial Summary

2023 Revenue

Donations.....	\$10,398
Grants.....	\$381,224
Fees.....	\$8,565
In Kind.....	\$2,219
Total Revenue:.....	\$402,406



2023 Expenditures

Watershed Movement.....	\$239,464
Headwaters to Sea.....	\$172,925
Watershed CPR Dashboard.....	\$203,480
Foodlands.....	\$535,844
Total Expenditures:.....	\$1,151,713

