

As the days grow shorter and communities throughout the Fraser Watershed gather to celebrate the season, we send warm holiday wishes to each of you. We are inspired by the many cultures, voices, and traditions that come together here, enriching our collective story and strengthening our shared commitment to Watershed CPR (Connect. Protect. Restore). May this time bring you peace, joy, and a renewed connection to the lands and waters that sustain us all.



Willem, Justine, Elise and Miki at the Salmon Recovery Conference.

Rivershed attended the 2024 BC Salmon Recovery Conference hosted by Pacific Salmon Foundation in Vancouver earlier this month, connecting with experts and leaders dedicated to salmon conservation. This was a valuable opportunity to share ideas, strengthen collaborations, and advance collective efforts to protect wild salmon and their habitats.

**Exciting Opportunity: Help Shape a New Youth Program!**

Rivershed is in the early planning stages of an exciting new paddle program, Watershed Workforce, launching in the summer of 2025. This on-the-water experience will connect youth to career opportunities in watershed stewardship while engaging directly in hands-on activities that contribute to the health and resiliency of the Fraser Watershed.

We're looking to connect with First Nations, local organizations, volunteers, environmental leaders, and restoration groups across the Fraser Watershed to help design regional programs that meet local priorities.

Interested in learning more or exploring potential collaborations?

Email [Justine@rivershed.com](mailto:Justine@rivershed.com)

## News from the Watershed

### **Mining company charged 10 years after spilling toxic waste into B.C. waters**

Collapse of Mount Polley tailings dam considered one of the worst environmental disasters in Canadian history. [Read more.](#)

### **Lheidli T'enneh wind project approved**

The First Nation intends to install 18 turbines east of Hixon. [Keep reading.](#)

### **New Pacific salmon hatchery on the Chilcotin River**

Chinook salmon returning to the Chilcotin watershed hold deep historic and cultural importance to the T̓silhqot̓'in people and other First Nations with connections to the Fraser River. [Learn more.](#)

### **Good Samaritan Returns Semá:th Fishing Artifacts to Sumas First Nation**

Sumas First Nation was recently gifted two fishing artifacts that have been identified as Semá:th fishing tools, thought to have been used sometime in the early 20th century (before the draining of Semá:th Xó:t̓sa, or Sumas Lake) for fishing sturgeon and salmon. [Read more.](#)

### **Triumphant return of chum salmon on Chilliwack Creek**

The salmon have fought their way back to the upper sections of the urban creek system for the first time in 75 years – thanks to a bold riparian restoration project. [Read more.](#)

### **Conserving just five per cent of watersheds can protect cities from floods: UBC study**

A UBC study finds conserving watersheds and at least two per cent of land could shield more than half of urban floodplains, saving lives, crops and infrastructure. [Learn more.](#)

### **B.C. tailings ponds mapping encourages critical mineral recovery, clean up**

Geoscience BC is developing a publicly available map of every mining waste site in the province. [Read more.](#)

### **Metro planning new Lulu Delta water tunnel**

Delta is part of a series of major Metro Vancouver tunnel water supply upgrade projects. An update report to the regional district's Water Committee notes the water transmission system is going to be upgraded to ensure resilience in the event of an earthquake. [Read more.](#)

### **Inside Kanaka Bar's Conservation Plan: Protecting Rare Ecosystems & Indigenous Culture**

Learn about the Kanaka Bar Indian Band's visionary Indigenous protected area project aimed at safeguarding virtually their entire unceded territory, including some of BC's rarest old-growth forests. [Watch it here.](#)

### **Financial assistance available for flood-affected people in the Lower Mainland**

Disaster Financial Assistance is available for eligible people, businesses and communities in the Lower Mainland that were affected by flooding due to the atmospheric river from Oct. 18-20, 2024. [Read more.](#)

### **The economic implications of wildfire in B.C. are wide reaching**

Opinion: Government must make smart investments to manage wildfire — affordable cost of living and the capacity to spend in areas like health care are touched by the wildfire reality we now face. [Read more.](#)

### **Mount Polley disaster's toxic impact continues to filter through B.C. waters, 10 years later: researchers**

Environmental impact of 2014 mine tailings pond breach are still being felt, scientists say. [Read more.](#)

### **Building Like Beavers: BCWF's 10,000 Wetlands Project Update**

After centuries of beaver exploitation and loss of productive beaver habitat, the B.C. Wildlife Federation is transforming ecosystem restoration in British Columbia through its innovative 10,000 Wetlands project. [Learn more.](#)

### **Bev Sellars: A science monitoring centre is key to saving the iconic Fraser River**

Everything that happens on the land eventually gets into the water. The damage to the river may very well be considered death by a thousand cuts. [Read more.](#)

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## **Events**

### **Future Fuels Forum (Prince George, Headwaters)**

**Jan. 13-14.** Join the city of Prince George for two transformative days dedicated to the future of sustainable fuels. Industry leaders, innovators, experts, and policymakers will converge to discuss the latest advancements and opportunities in the clean fuel

sector. [Register here.](#)

### **Climate Justice is Clean Air (Vancouver, Lower Fraser)**

**Jan. 16.** Join this in-person panel discussion and hear from experts Dr. Amanda Giang, UBC Mechanical Engineering and Dr. Chris Carlsten, UBC Medicine, about how we can address unequal exposure to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. [Register here.](#)

### **2025 Invasive Species Forum (Zoom, Online)**

**Feb. 18–20.** The virtual Invasive Species Forum is an annual event that brings attention to invasive species issues, research, and advances in prevention and management occurring across Canada, neighbouring U.S. States, and beyond. [Register here.](#)

## **Opportunities**

**BC Parks** is hiring [Park Rangers.](#)

**ECOFOR** is hiring a [Project Coordinator.](#)

**Young Agrarians** has posted an opportunity for an [Organic Farm Field Crew Member.](#)

**Simon Fraser University (SFU)** is seeking to hire a [Postdoctoral Fellow or equivalent in applied genomics.](#)

**Endangered Ecosystem Alliance** is hiring an [Executive Assistant.](#)

**Ducks Unlimited** is hiring a [Habitat Securement Specialist.](#)

**Nature Based Solutions** is hiring a [Development Coordinator.](#)

**Chu Cho Environmental** is hiring for [multiple positions.](#)

**Vancouver Foundation** is hiring a [Director, Development & Operations](#) and a [Manager, Donor Services.](#)

Do you have any Fraser Watershed news, events or opportunities you'd like to share with thousands of people across the watershed? [Send me a message!](#)



Peyton Bradley  
Regional Engagement Manager  
Rivershed Society of BC



If you found interest in topics covered in this newsletter, please forward it to a friend or family member. The more people we can connect with who are interested in the health and resiliency of the Fraser, the greater our collective impact to protect and restore the watershed will be.



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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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