

We're excited to kick off 2025 with renewed energy and a continued commitment to connecting, protecting, and restoring the Fraser Watershed. This year, we look forward to welcoming you back on the water for paddling programs, continuing progress on the Foodlands Corridor Restoration sites, and launching new initiatives like the Watershed CPR Dashboard and the Watershed Workforce Program.

We'll also be spending time in communities throughout the watershed—keep an eye out for Rivershed at local events and be sure to come say hello! If you know of an event or opportunity to advance Watershed CPR (Connect. Protect. Restore), please send the details to [info@rivershed.com](mailto:info@rivershed.com), and we'll be sure to follow up. Watch for your monthly Rivershed Stories newsletters, where we'll share updates and let you know how to get involved.



Carrying canoes into the Nechako River for last year's youth paddle. Photo by Megan Rempel

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

Rivershed is in the 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)



### Still Time to Claim Your 2024 Tax-Deductible Gift

In the hustle and bustle of the holidays—plus disruptions to mail service this past December—you may not have been able to make your year-end contribution to support vital Watershed CPR programs. But don't worry—the deadline for charitable donations claimed on your 2024 tax return has been **extended through the end of February 2025!**

If you haven't yet donated, there's still time. As our special thanks, contributions of \$50 or more will receive a beautiful set of notecards featuring birds of the Fraser Watershed.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting and restoring the Fraser!

**DONATE NOW!**

## News from the Watershed

### **B.C.'s multi-year drought continues despite 2024 drenching Vancouver**

2024 among the top five warmest years in Kelowna, Vernon, Williams Lake and Kamloops. [Read More.](#)

### **Delta wants new water intake from Fraser River**

A short-term solution is the retrofitting of the existing drainage pump at Gravelridge to convert it into a dual-purpose station. [Read More.](#)

### **Road salt is killing Metro Vancouver salmon eggs, study finds**

The substance we use to keep our roads safe in winter is lethal for freshly fertilized salmon eggs, according to research conducted by a team of West Coast

scientists. [Learn More.](#)

### **Fish weirs are still banned under the Fisheries Act. This First Nation wants to build a new one**

Sumas First Nation is trying to construct a fish weir on its traditional territory in B.C.'s Fraser Valley, in the face of environmental and bureaucratic obstacles. [See More.](#)

### **Snowpack around Prince George area below normal but not concerning to start 2025**

The snowpack in the snow basins around the Prince George area is a bit below normal to start 2025. [Read the article.](#)

### **Federal Court upholds RBT2 Megaport expansion, in a setback to legal protection for species at risk**

The last 72 Southern Resident killer whales on the planet are denied legal protection under the Species at Risk Act. [Read More.](#)

### **Urban salmon venture into the dense cityscape of North Surrey**

Years of patience and work pay off as coho salmon make it up Cougar Creek headwaters in Surrey. [Learn more.](#)

### **Injured knee small price for salmon comeback in Langley creek**

Longtime creek advocate looks forward to more culverts being replaced. [Read article.](#)

### **BC Climate Emergency Campaign releases 2024 Climate Action Progress Report**

Civil society groups issue annual assessment of the B.C. government's implementation of 10 urgent climate actions to confront the climate emergency. [Read more.](#)

### **Canadian governments need to emphasize climate defence over offence for the rest of this decade**

Governments and insurers must work together urgently to prepare communities and households for wildfires, floods, windstorms and hail while improving Canada's response to and recovery from these increasingly frequent and severe disasters. [Read more.](#)

### **BC water minister tours Chilako River Restoration Project near Prince George**

The project aims to aid salmon runs and protect against flooding. [Read the article.](#)

### **7 big environmental decisions facing the B.C. government in 2025**

From the future of the PRGT pipeline to Fairy Creek's old-growth logging deferrals, here are some of the big environmental decisions the B.C. government will grapple with this year. [Read more.](#)

### **Opinion: Canadian negotiators must stand strong as salmon treaty talks begin in Vancouver**

History and current events show that President-elect Trump interprets compromise as weakness, and hesitation as an invitation to demand more. [Know more.](#)

### **Chilliwack First Nation acquires 50 acres of land adjacent to its existing reserve land**

Ch'iyáqtel (Tzeachten First Nation) says the newly acquired lands, located within Ch'iyáqtel's traditional territory and adjacent to existing reserve lands, represent a significant step in reclaiming and stewarding ancestral lands. [Read more.](#)

### **Opinion: B.C. giving away fresh water while funding to fight fires, floods and scarcity dries up**

There is a plausible — and popular — way for the province to fund this work: increase the charges for industries that withdraw large amounts of B.C.'s fresh water. [Read more.](#)

### **Robson Valley snowpack inching closer to normal levels**

It's a change from this time last year, when the region sat at 63 per cent of normal. [Read more.](#)

### **BC ignores environmental, economic & legal realities in mandate letters**

Environmental lawyers say exempting projects from assessment & ramming through permits is a recipe for delay, conflict and uncertainty. [Learn more.](#)

### **You may have to pay to spray as Vancouver considering water metering for all homes, buildings**

Only 13 per cent of Vancouver's single-family homes have metered water connections. West Vancouver has universal water metering, which has been associated with a 45 per cent reduction in demand. [Read article.](#)

### **Wilderness Committee slams BC NDP for lack of environmental urgency in mandate letters**

Environmental protection and follow-through on past promises missing from ministerial direction. [Read more.](#)

## **Was this newsletter forwarded to you by a friend?**

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## **Events**

### **Wetlands Institute: Virtual Speaker Series 2025 (online)**

**Feb 5, 12, 26.** The B.C. Wildlife Federation's Wetland Education Program returns in February with the Wetlands Institute: Virtual Speaker Series! Join to explore new and emerging wetland research. [More info.](#)

### **Forest Journaling and Tea: Mindful Nature in Stanley Park (Vancouver, Lower Fraser)**

**Feb 8.** Join the Stanley Park Ecological Society for a reflective morning in the forest. Stroll the park, pause to take in your surroundings, then gather indoors for tea and

optional sharing and journaling. [More info.](#)

### **Owl Prowl (Vancouver, Lower Fraser)**

**Feb 13.** Learn about the owl breeding season and listen for sounds of Stanley Park's owls on this popular nighttime walk. [Get Tickets](#)

### **Invasive Species Council of BC 2025 Annual Forum & AGM (New Westminster, Lower Fraser)**

**Feb 24-27.** Join ISCBC at INVASIVES 2025, featuring memorable speakers, celebrating amazing achievements, and exploring thrilling new opportunities. [Register here.](#)

### **Nicola Naturalists Society Hosts 2025 BC Nature Conference and AGM (Merrit, Thompson)**

**May 22-25.** Full Registration includes all presentations, BC Nature meetings, Thursday night reception, and field trips. [Register here](#)

## **Opportunities**

**Coast Funds** is looking for an [Executive Administrator](#).

**Young Agrarians** are hiring 4 [Field Crew positions](#).

**Hope Mountain Centre** has an opening for a part-time [Outdoor Educator](#).

**Surrey Natural Areas Partnership** has multiple opportunities on its [Field and Urban Forest Outreach Teams](#).

**Nature Trust of BC** is looking to hire [Crew Lead and Crew Members for its South Coast Conservation Field Crew](#).

**BC Water Legacy** is looking for a [Program Associate](#).

**Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society** is hiring a [Campaign Manager](#).

**Pacific Salmon Foundation** is accepting grant applications from community-led organizations for salmon conservation and restoration projects. [Apply by February 15.](#)

**The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) Youth Engagement Working Group** wants to hear from Nechako area youth who would like to participate in discussions and activities. [Details here.](#)

Intake is open for the **Outdoor Recreation Fund of BC**. The deadline to submit applications is February 20. [Learn more here.](#)

Do you have any Fraser Watershed news, events or opportunities you'd like to share with thousands of people across the watershed? Email them to [info@rivershed.com](mailto:info@rivershed.com)

Thanks for reading!

Until next time—yours in stewardship,

— The Rivershed Team



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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.

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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