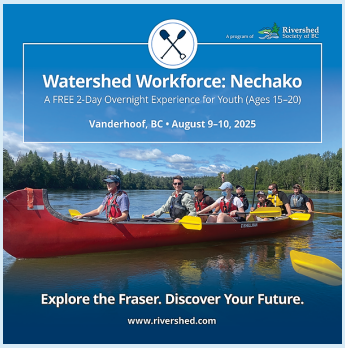
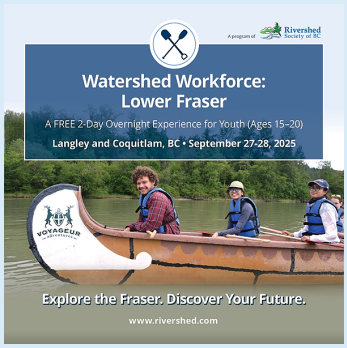
Welcome to the July edition of Rivershed Stories.

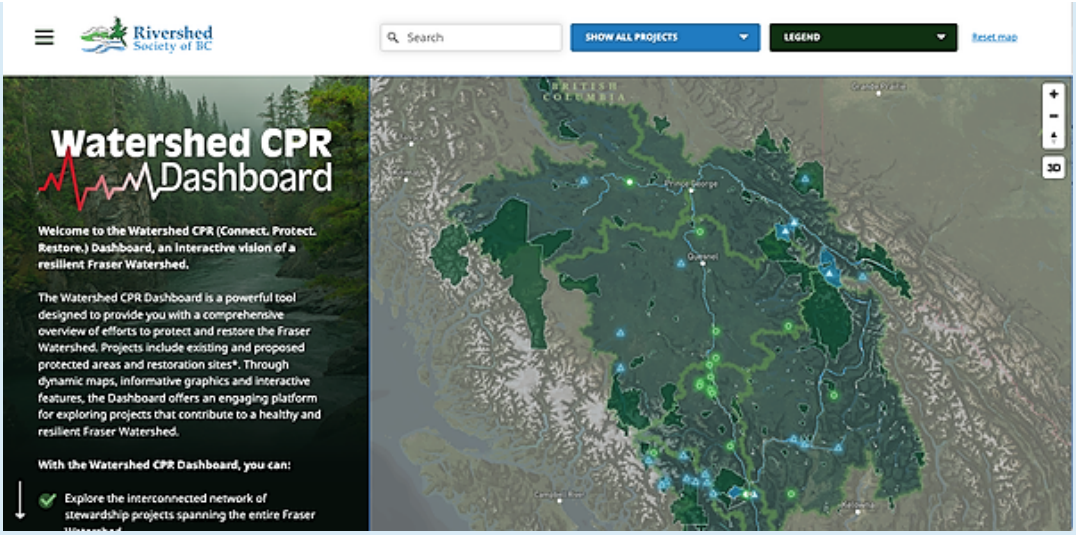
As summer unfolds, Rivershed team members are getting out into communities, connecting with youth, sharing the Watershed CPR Dashboard, and supporting local action for a healthier Fraser.





One way we're doing that is through the **Watershed Workforce program for youth ages 15–20.** These free, two-day experiences get participants out on the water — in a canoe or raft — and into the field to learn from local people working to support resilient communities and healthy watersheds. Programs are coming up in the Nechako and Headwaters regions in August and we may be able to accommodate a few more participants. Email justine@rivershed.com to inquire. Registration is also open for the Lower Fraser program happening over **BC/World Rivers Day** weekend in September.

If you're in the **Fraser Headwaters** region, join us for a free community dinner in Dunster on **August 6 at 6 pm**. Everyone is welcome! Come share a meal, connect with neighbours and youth from the Watershed Workforce Program, and take a closer look at the Watershed CPR Dashboard, a new tool we've developed to highlight protection and restoration efforts across the Fraser Watershed. It's still evolving, and we're excited to share it with you and hear your feedback. Please register in advance to help with food planning.



The Watershed CPR Dashboard is an evolving tool that maps proposed, ongoing, and completed efforts to protect and restore the Fraser Watershed and invites input to help shape its development.

You'll also find us at the **Nechako Valley Exhibition** on **August 9 and 10**. Stop by our table to say hello, explore the Watershed CPR Dashboard and share any thoughts or ideas you'd like to contribute.

We've been engaging at the policy level too. Earlier this month, Rivershed's Executive Director, Justine Nelson presented to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services, as part of their consultation on priorities for the 2026 provincial budget, highlighting the need for long-term investment in watershed health, local jobs, and community resilience. We recorded her remarks afterward so you can hear the recommendations we shared. Watch it here.

If you see our team out in the watershed this summer, be sure to say hello!

Arrowhead plants growing along a pond; a bucket of fish with an aerator to keep the water oxygenated as we count and identify the species, and; a garter snake who had just shed its skin.

Fieldwork continues at the sc̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm Corridor

This month, members of Rivershed's Foodlands Team were back in the field along the sc̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm* (Salmon River) Foodlands Corridor, continuing summer monitoring work. Despite the heat, restoration sites are looking healthy and have changed noticeably since winter.

To track how the sites evolve over time, the team collects data on water quality, fish

species, plant growth, and more. The photos above show a few highlights from the field.

*sc̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm" is the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ word for the Salmon River. hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ is the Downriver dialect of Halkomelem. Translations provided by Knowledge Keepers and language learners from Kwantlen and Katzie Nations.

News from the Watershed

Overuse of riprap to prevent riverbank erosion is harming B.C. rivers

Bank erosion is responsible for a significant portion of annual flood damage in Canada, with estimates suggesting the costs could grow as high as $13.6 billion annually by the end of the century. Read more.

A world first: Researchers announce plan to save B.C.'s endangered southern resident orcas

Scientists from around the world have made sweeping recommendations to save the critically endangered southern resident orcas that travel in B.C. waters. Continue reading.

Why Canada may not be ready for 'new reality' of flash flooding and severe storms

[...] the country needs to invest in flood mapping, infrastructure and early warning systems. Find out more.

B.C. Wildfire Service expecting more fires with forecast thunderstorms: minister

The B.C. Wildfire Service says the province is facing fewer active wildfires this year compared with last season at this time, but a forecast of thunderstorms and lightning will "certainly" cause more blazes. Learn more.

Massive sturgeon caught for the 1st time in B.C., believed to be over 100.

A massive sturgeon was caught in the Fraser River south of Lillooet, B.C., and it may be the largest ever seen in that area [...]. Read more.

Parks Canada and British Columbia invest more than $8 M to improve ecological connectivity.

The initiative will help conserve biodiversity and improve connections between important natural areas in British Columbia. Learn more.

Province supports community efforts to protect against climate hazards

More people in B.C. will be better protected from natural and climate-driven hazards as the Province invests more than $6 million for 11 community projects. Read the full article.

B.C., First Nations advance long-term water planning for Nicola watershed

The Province and the Coldwater, Lower Nicola, Nooaitch, Shackan and Upper Nicola Indian Bands (the Nicola 5 First Nations) are taking the next step to protect healthy and abundant water for people, fish and ecosystems [...]. Read more.

Sicamous council not in agreement over ongoing funding concerns facing Shuswap Watershed Council

The District of Sicamous council was split over how to address the Shuswap Watershed Council's ongoing funding dilemmas. Continue reading.

Will the pinks arrive on schedule

Officials have forecast a huge pink salmon return, but local First Nations aren't counting their fish before they've been caught. Find out more.

Fraser River feels the burn: Wildfires spiking pollutants and altering ocean carbon

Researchers studying water quality in the Fraser River found wildfires are boosting the concentration of heavy metals [...] with potential health impacts to the river and Salish Sea. Read the full article.

Gaining ground: An update after three years of sediment restoration at Sturgeon Bank

Now entering its fourth year, the Sturgeon Bank Sediment Enhancement Pilot Project is proving that innovative restoration approaches like the beneficial reuse of dredged sediment can make a real difference for coastal ecosystems under pressure. Read more.

Clearwater, B.C., braces for potential of massive mine that could nearly double its population

Taseko Mines has started environmental assessments for Yellowhead Project. View article.

Delta's Burns Bog added to national conservation database

Metro Vancouver has added more than 8,000 hectares of regional parkland to the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database. Continue reading.

Tsilhqot'in issue fisheries notice to protect species at risk

The Tsilhqot'in National Government issued a voluntary fisheries notice to help protect early return salmon in the Chilcotin River system. Keep reading.

Want a Carbon Fix? It's Closer than You Think

While Canada bets big on engineered tech, experts say nature still offers our best climate solutions. Learn more.

B.C. unveils new drought-tracking system

As the driest summer months approach, the B.C. government has unveiled a new system to track and report drought conditions in the province. Explore further.

FireSmart BC launches campaign for wildfire preparedness

The new campaign, titled Summer Plans, includes digital guides, infographics, informational videos, checklists, and other tools to help reduce the risk of wildfire damage. Read the full article.

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Events

Blitz the Gap (Online, Watershed Wide)

Now until Oct 1. Blitz the Gap is a Canada-wide bioblitz to help fill gaps in knowledge of biodiversity this summer. Your iNaturalist observations help build biodiversity models, which will be used to understand and conserve biodiversity. Sign up here.

Mini Bee School: Save the Date (Prince George, Nechako Region)

August 2 & 3. Have you always wanted to know how to ID the amazing diversity of bees buzzing around your flowers? Where do they nest, what do they eat, and how can you support them? Join this Bee Biology and Identification workshop! Register here.

Rivershed Dunster Community Dinner (Dunster, Headwaters Region)

August 6. Join Rivershed for a community dinner and a first look at the Watershed CPR Dashboard. Register here.

Rivershed Watershed Workforce Headwaters (Tête Jaune Cache & Dunster, Headwaters Region)

August 6 & 7. Join Rivershed for this two-day immersive experience for youth, ages 15–20, interested in discovering career paths that support watershed health and their communities. Spots may still be available, email justine@rivershed.com to inquire.

McLellan Creek Restoration Workship (Surrey, Lower Region)

August 9 & 10. Join the B.C. Wildlife Federation and the City of Surrey for a hands-on, community-based event offering a unique opportunity to support salmon habitat restoration, learn about local environmental issues, and contribute directly to creek stewardship. More information.

Rivershed Watershed Workforce Nechako (Vanderhoof, Nechako Region)

August 9 & 10. Join Rivershed for this two-day immersive experience for youth, ages 15–20, interested in discovering career paths that support watershed health and their communities. Spots may still be available, email justine@rivershed.com to inquire.

Chilliwack River Knotweed Walks 2025 (Chilliwack, Lower Region)

Aug 16, 30 & Sept 13. Join the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society & Trinity Western University - The Knotweed Lab for a FREE walk along the Rotary Trail and learn more about this invasive plant, how to identify it, and its impacts to our local environment. Learn more.

Car-Free Day (Port Moody, Lower Fraser)

August 17. Members of the public are encouraged to leave their car at home, and walk, bike, or take public transit to this huge street celebration is filled with local businesses, musicians, delicious food, and a family-friendly activities. Learn more.

Pond-ering Amphibians (Maple Ridge, Lower Region)

August 24. Presented by Kanaka Education & Environmental Partnership Society, check out displays and presentations. Tour indoor and outdoor learning spaces including the Bell-Irving Hatchery, “roof to creek” stormwater management system, and wetlands. More information.

BC Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference (Williams Lake, Thompson Region)

September 24-27. The BCTWS conference, Forestry, Fire and First Nations: Working together to co-manage landscapes and wildfire, will be held in picturesque Williams Lake, BC, in Secwépemc traditional territory. Register here.

Robson Valley Mushroom Festival (Dunster, Headwaters Region)

September 26-28. The festival is a celebration and exploration of the wild mushrooms that grow in the region. There will be a variety of educational presentations, workshops, and guided foraging tours throughout the festival weekend. Learn more.

Wild Mushroom Field Trip (Maple Ridge, Lower Region)

October 1. Join Wild and Immersive and Swallow Tail Culinary Adventures for a guided walk through the forest to learn how to identify wild mushrooms like chanterelles, porcini, and oyster mushrooms. This beginner-friendly mushroom 101 class is led by expert guides and offers a great introduction to BC’s diverse fungi. Spots fill up fast!. More information.

Opportunities

Saik’uz First Nation is looking for a FireSmart Coordinator and a Field & Operations Lead.

Ecofor is hiring multiple positions.

WildResearch is seeking experienced bird banders.

The **Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition** is hiring a Restoration Field Technician.

Indigenous Climate Action has multiple positions available.

Echo Ecological Enterprise LTD has a Restoration Technician position available.

ERM is hiring a Managing Consultant, Groundwater Modeler for its Vancouver location.

The 2025 **BC Rivers Day Micro Grant** Program is accepting applications until August 24.

Intake is open for the **Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP).**

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

Thanks for reading!
Until next time—yours in stewardship,

The Rivershed Team

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.

Like us Follow Follow Share Subscribe

Rivershed acknowledges our position as a settler-led organization on Indigenous, and often unceded, untreatied 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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