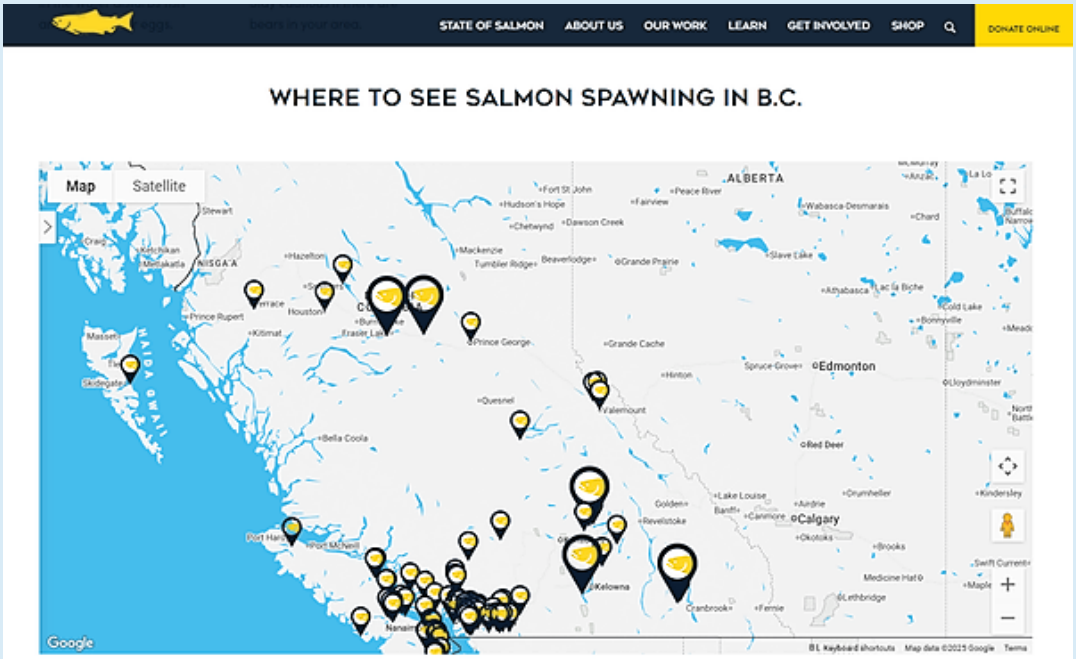
This month, youth in the Headwaters and Nechako regions joined Watershed Workforce programs that brought learning, adventure, and stewardship together. They rafted the Fraser headwaters and paddled Voyageur canoes on the Nechako. They also dug into hands-on restoration and spent time with local leaders and knowledge holders who shared what stewardship looks like in practice. In Dunster, youth shared a dinner with community members, gathering around food, stories, and a shared vision for a resilient Fraser Watershed.

These experiences are helping shape the next generation of leaders who will help protect and restore the watershed. **And there's still one more chance to take part:** registration is open for the Lower Fraser Watershed Workforce program on Rivers Day weekend, September 27–28. Youth, aged 15-20, will get hands-on at the sc̓e:ɬxʷəy̓əm Foodlands Corridor restoration site and paddle the Lower Fraser in a Voyageur canoe, an unforgettable way to learn, connect, and celebrate the Fraser.

A Record Pink Salmon Return?

The Pacific Salmon Commission has forecast nearly 27 million pink salmon returning to the Fraser this year, a potential record. Pink salmon come back to the Fraser in odd years, typically arriving in late August and September. Other species, like sockeye and chinook, are also returning in strong numbers this season, making it an exciting time to witness the Fraser's salmon runs.

If you'd like to see this incredible migration for yourself, the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salmon Spotting map is a great resource to find when and where salmon are most likely to be visible near you. Learn more about salmon spawning in our latest blog post.



News from the Watershed

B.C. scientists discover new oyster virus, solve mystery of sea star epidemic

Scientists in B.C. have made two landmark discoveries, identifying both the bacteria that wiped out billions of sea stars and a new virus that may be killing farmed oysters. Read more.

REFBC Grants Support Indigenous Land Use Planning and Youth Mentorship

The Real Estate Foundation of BC is pleased to announce 46 new grants totalling $4,239,292. Learn more.

First Nation disappointed as B.C. court rejects challenge to Mount Polley dam level

The B.C. Supreme Court has dismissed a First Nation's bid to stop the level of a tailings dam being increased at the Mount Polley mine site, which suffered a catastrophic dam collapse that spilled millions of litres of waste and water 11 years ago. Continue reading.

Users unhappy as sections of river trail crumble away

The parts of the trail along the Fraser and Nechako rivers, especially the Nechako, are most affected by erosion. Learn more.

B.C. to appeal landmark Aboriginal title ruling over Fraser River land in Metro Vancouver
B.C.'s attorney general says she 'strongly disagrees' with Cowichan Nation's rights and title decision. Find out more.

Permission needed to access High Bar First Nation reserve land
Hunters, fishers, and recreational visitors must receive authorization from chief and council in advance. Read more.

The Fraser's Impressive Sockeye Returns Prompt Fishery Openings
Advocates say it's a fish farm closure victory. Fishers are calling to strike while the iron is hot. Keep reading.

In B.C.'s southern Interior, black cottonwood trees are crucial to salmon habitat.
An oasis in an otherwise arid landscape, cottonwood riparian forests support stream health by preventing erosion, improving water quality, and providing shade and shelter for dozens of species – including Pacific salmon. Read more.

Water pollution flows across borders, 100% tariff-free
From coal mining runoff in British Columbia to bacterial blooms in the Great Lakes, there are things that just won't be contained by lines drawn on maps. Read more.

This is our second-worst wildfire season on record — and could be the new normal
Area roughly the size of New Brunswick has already burned this year. Find out more.

Salmon habitat is destroyed for development. Is it possible to replace what's lost?
A human-constructed marsh in B.C.'s Fraser River was meant to mimic natural feeding and breeding grounds. Offset projects can succeed — if someone sticks around to care for them. Continue reading.

Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust enhancing agriculture here at home
Many of the hedgerows you see in Delta today were likely planted by the Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust. Keep reading.

One year after Chilcotin landslide, risks to salmon could worsen
The Tŝilhqot'in Nation warns future impacts could be comparable to the 2019 Big Bar landslide on the Fraser River. Read article.

Decline in B.C. salmon monitoring creates worst data gap in 70 years, study finds
The research links commercial priorities to a roughly 50 per cent decline in the annual monitoring of Pacific salmon stocks since the 1980s. Continue reading.

First Nations frustrated with duration of Joffre Lakes Park closure
Park will be closed in September as province says it aims to balance cultural practices and public access. Learn more.

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Events

2025 Chilliwack River Knotweed Walk (Chilliwack, Lower Region)

September 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 the local environment. Sing up here.

Horsefly Salmon Festival (Horsefly, Cariboo-Chilcotin Region)

September 13 & 14. This free family-friendly event, hosted by the Horsefly River Roundtable, features music, artisans, food vendors and welcomes pets, too. Rivershed staff will also be there with an interactive booth, including invertebrate identification—be sure to stop by and say hello. Learn more.

Film Screening: Trouble in the Headwaters followed by a panel discussion (Prince George, Nechako Region)

September 13. Join Conservation North for an eye-opening film and an important discussion about forestry and flooding in BC. Get tickets.

Voices of the Forest – Discover Local Trees (Abbotsford, Lower Region)

September 13. Join the Fraser Valley Conservancy for a guided walk through Fishtrap Creek Park and learn about the native trees that call it home. Learn how to identify different tree species, hear the stories they tell, and explore the vital roles they play in our ecosystem. Register here.

RiverFest (Vancouver, Lower Region)

September 20, 27 & 28. Celebrate BC Rivers Day and World Rivers Day at the Fraser River Discovery Centre. This year offers a dynamic mix of exhibits, live performances, exhibitor expo and artisan market, the Lucille Johnstone Workboat Parade, and many fun activities for all ages. Learn more.

BC Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference (Williams Lake, Cariboo-Chilcotin 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.

Fresh Roots Big Help – Coquitlam Salmon Stream (Coquitlam, Lower Region)

September 25. Join Fresh Roots at the Healing Forest at Millside Centre in Coquitlam for an afternoon of fun and learning. Help care for the salmon stream by planting native species along the banks and removing garbage to restore a healthy riparian habitat. Sign up here.

Community Lantern Walk (Campbell Valley Regional Park, Lower Region)

September 27. Celebrate World Rivers Day with an evening walk at Campbell Valley Regional Park to learn about some of the "Creatures of the Night" that live around the river. More information.

Watershed Workforce: Lower Fraser (Langley and Coquitlam, Lower Region)
September 27-28. 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. Register here.

World Rivers Day with Little Cambell River Society (Surrey, Lower Region)
September 28. Join the Little Campbell River Society for a very special afternoon as Dr. Sean Markey shares a remarkable story of how a once-buried, salmon spawning stream (in Vancouver) was revitalized. More information.

Robson Valley Mushroom Festival (Dunster, Headwaters Region)
September 27-28. 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.

BC Rivers Day Celebration and River Cleanup (Chilliwack, Lower Region)
September 28. Join the Chilliwack Vedder River Cleanup Society to celebrate BC Rivers Day. Register here.

Vanderhoof Rivers Day (Vanderhoof, Nechako Region)
September 28. Join the Vanderhoof Canoe & Paddling Club for a leisurely paddle down the Nechako River, from Braeside to Riverside Park. More information.

Rivers Day in North Vancouver (North Vancouver, Lower Region)
September 28. This is a fun, family-friendly event! Come by and check-out the booth participants, from painting homes for bats to learning about urban black bears and native pollinators, there will be something for everyone. Learn more.

Tranquille Watershed Clean up (Kamloops, Thompson Region)
September 28. In honour of BC Rivers Day, the Kamloops Naturalist Club will be hosting a cleanup in the Tranquille River watershed. Learn more.

Ridge Meadows Rivers Day (Maple Ridge, Lower Region)
September 28. Join the Alouette River Management Society for an annual community celebration that highlights the importance of local waterways through hands-on environmental activities and family-friendly fun. More information.

BC Rivers Day at Tsútswecw Park (Chase, Thompson Region)
September 28. Join the Adams River Salmon Society for some fun activities and meet some local community groups supporting the land, the river and the life it all supports. This is a free event for all ages. 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.

Water Monitoring in Everett Crowley Park (Vancouver, Lower Region)
October 2. Join the Everett Crowley Park Committee for a water monitoring workshop Everett Crowley Park. Everett Crowley Park. Participants will use a Water Rangers kit to measure key indicators of water body health, including dissolved oxygen, pH and alkalinity. Register here.

Salmon Day at X̱éxətəm Regional Park (Coquitlam, Lower Region)
October 4. Join kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation, Resilient Waters, Watershed Watch Salmon Society, and UBC Pacific Salmon Ecology and Conservation Lab at Salmon Day 2025, a vibrant, family-friendly event dedicated to celebrating and protecting wild Pacific salmon and the rivers they swim in. More information.

Explore more upcoming opportunities to celebrate Rivers Day by checking the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC website for event updates.

Opportunities

The **Fraser Basin Council** is seeking a Manager, Indigenous Initiatives.

The **Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions** is hiring a Policy Impact Lead.

The **Wildlife Rescue Association** has various positions available.

Sitka Foundation is looking for a Grants and Operations Coordinator.

Indigenous Climate Action has multiple remote positions available.

MakeWay is hiring a Director of Operations.

The **Real Estate Foundation of B.C.** is seeking a Director, Grants & Community Initiatives.

Green Teams Canada is looking for a Lower Mainland Youth Program Assistant.

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.

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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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