



Watershed
Security Fund

Healthy Watersheds • Thriving Communities

Funded Projects

2024-2026

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First Nations
Water Caucus



First Nations
Fisheries Council
of British Columbia



REAL ESTATE
Foundation
OF BC

Funded Projects

Spring 2026



Watershed Security Fund

The WSF Grants Program funded 26 projects totalling \$5,998,000 in its third intake (Fall 2025), with funds flowing Spring 2026.

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Adams Lake Indian Band (ALIB)	Sinmax Creek Nature Based Watershed Restoration	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Nature-based Infrastructure	Adams Lake Indian Band (ALIB) is leading this project to increase the salmonid productive capacity of the Sinmax Creek watershed by using a nature-based watershed restoration approach. The key project objectives are to implement restoration activities, following a nature-based approach, to improve water stewardship and conservation of salmon habitat; to support capacity building of ALIB and direct engagement with Secwépemc communities in water and salmon stewardship; and collaboration towards the water and salmon stewardship alongside multiple partners (landowners, provincial, federal, tribal councils) vested in the recovery of salmon species and their habitat.	\$400,000
Awi'nakola Foundation	Going Home: Revitalizing our Ma'amtagila Conservation Vision	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Awi'nakola Foundation, in partnership with the Ma'amtagila Tribe Society, is leading this project to develop a community stewardship vision and collaborate on conservation objectives for one of the major watersheds in the territory: the A'ik'awalis (Adam) and Laxstu (Eve) River, north of Campbell River, Vancouver Island. The community will identify potential partnerships, determine the additional scientific support required, and ultimately establish a roadmap for future stewardship that integrates cultural knowledge and sacred practices.	\$150,000
B.C. Nature & Tsal'alh First Nations	Papt Ku Gwenis: Gwenis Forever Project	Fraser Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Watersheds & Food Systems	Tsal'alh First Nation and B.C. Nature are partnering to study, conserve and raise awareness of Gwenis, a unique stock of Kokanee salmon to Anderson and Seton Lakes. These salmon spawn in the middle of winter at great depth, turn jet black, and float to the surface where they become food for hundreds of Eagles and the St'át'imc communities along the lakeshore.	\$150,000
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	Kus-Kus-Sum Estuary Restoration Project-Unpave Paradise	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Comox Valley Project Watershed Society (CVPWS) is partnering with the K'ómoks First Nation (KFN) to restore the ecological and cultural values of a former industrial sawmill site in the heart of the Comox Estuary to its pre-development state, while strengthening partnerships and land repatriation. The project objectives are to complete the restoration and monitor the effectiveness of restoration activities, which include measuring vegetation success, health and diversity, and comparing habitat usage by wildlife within the restoration site to a local reference site (Hollyhock Flats) to gauge restoration success and any future actions needed.	\$145,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
District of New Hazelton	New Hazelton Watershed Resiliency Planning	Skeena Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Nature-based Infrastructure	The District of New Hazelton is developing a watershed management strategy for the community to guide activities related to the long-term management of the Station Creek Watershed, which is the water source for New Hazelton and the Hagwilget Village Council's community of Hagwilget. Understanding the current watershed extents and developing strategies to manage the longevity of the watershed will ensure both communities are well-prepared for the future and for potential climate change impacts.	\$50,000
Doig River First Nation Government	Tsáá? ché ne dane Saahgii úú Ts'ibe (river and muskeg) Monitoring Program	Mackenzie Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Doig River First Nation Government is leading this project to expand and implement their Chuu úú Nan (water and land) monitoring program, which was created to address members' concerns about degrading watershed health and cumulative impacts from extensive development (oil and gas, agriculture, forestry) and climate change. Monitoring will be carried out through the Guardian Program at community-identified locations across the Doig River, Beaton River, and Milligan Creek watersheds, expanding the number of monitoring sites.	\$400,000
Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation	Weather monitoring for climate resilience in ?iihatisath činaḡint Territory	South Coast Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Ehattesaht/Chinehkint First Nation (ECFN) is leading this project to install three strategically located weather stations across its Territory to provide real-time, high-quality weather data. These weather stations will join a previously installed station, creating the highest-resolution watershed monitoring program in Canada.	\$150,000
Ha'oom Fisheries Society	A great feast bowl, Haa?uukmin: Abundant futures for the Ha'wii'h of ʔa?uukwi?ath Hahuuŋi	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Ha'oom Fisheries Society is partnering with ʔa?uukwi?ath (Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation) to revitalize Haa?uukmin (The Great Feast Bowl), also referred to as the Kennedy Watershed. The expected outcomes are a collaboratively developed rebuilding plan with clear indicators, improved salmon monitoring and broodstock collection through the Ilthpaya Weir, strengthened cultural connections to Haa?uukmin suuḡaa via ceremonial practices, and a foundation for long-term salmon recovery in Haa?uukmin.	\$400,000
K'en T'em Limited Partnership (KTLP)	xwi? ʔexekstmem e qwu? ("we will look after the water")	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	K'en T'em Limited Partnership (KTLP), in partnership with the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA), is leading this project to begin developing a Watershed Management Plan grounded in community priorities and Indigenous knowledge. The primary activity in this phase of work will be developing and distributing a territory-wide survey to gather community-driven information and establish the structure that will guide the more technical components of watershed planning in future years.	\$22,000
Kwakiutl First Nation (KFN)	Cluxewe Watershed Management and Governance Priorities	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Kwakiutl First Nation (Kwakiutl) is leading this project to strengthen watershed management and governance within the Nation's territory by advancing a collaborative management strategy focusing on the Cluxewe watershed. The project's key objective is to enhance the Nation's ability to exercise its governance and jurisdiction over water resources while nurturing more collaborative relationships with partners operating within the Cluxewe Watershed.	\$50,000

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Langley Environmental Partners Society	Roots and STEMs: A Watershed Stewardship Education Project	Fraser Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Langley Environmental Partners Society is leading this project to increase public awareness of watershed stewardship across the nearly 2,000 km of waterways in what is known as the Langley region by drawing on both Indigenous knowledge and Western scientific understanding to support long-term watershed health. Key objectives include enhancing classroom education, promoting equitable access to watershed education, increasing youth engagement in watershed stewardship, expanding community participation in conservation activities, increasing public awareness of Indigenous leadership and watershed priorities, strengthening relationships and shared stewardship with ḡʷɑ:ḡḡəḡ (Kwantlen First Nations), increasing public awareness of Indigenous leadership and watershed priorities, and strengthening learning and relationship-building with ḡičəy (Katzie), Máthxwi (Matsqui), and se'mya'me (Semiahmoo) Nations.	\$45,000
Living Lakes Canada Society (LLC)	Strengthening Indigenous and Regional Watershed Security in Southeast B.C.	Columbia Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Living Lakes Canada Society (LLC), in partnership with yaqan nuʔkiy, Elk River Alliance, and Yaqit ʔa-knuqʔi 'it, ʔaq'am, and Syilx Okanagan Nation Alliance, is leading this project to continue the operations of the Columbia Basin Water Monitoring Framework (CBWMF) – a coordinated network tracking climate change and other impacts on freshwater which monitors streamflow, lake and wetland water levels, groundwater aquifers, water quality, and meteorological variables at 144 sites. Key goals include providing capacity-building opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, enhancing the accessibility of the Columbia Basin Water Hub open-source database, and providing data summaries for local decision-makers throughout the monitoring region.	\$400,000
Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB)	snklip iʔ kćəḡʷíplaʔtns iʔ kʷl pəḡʷwikstm – Coyotés law of Sharing, water's right to flow (Beaver Dam Analogues in Chopaka and Ashnola)	Columbia Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Nature-based Infrastructure	The Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) is leading a three-year, Indigenous-led low-tech process-based restoration (LTPBR) project with the BC Wildlife Federation, which will restore natural processes in wildfire-impacted areas using simple, hand-built structures that mimic beaver activity to re-establish natural hydrologic and ecological function within the headwaters and key tributaries of the Similkameen River.	\$400,000
MakeWay Charitable Society – Resilient Waters	Resilient Waters: First Nations and Farmers for Food Security, Salmon Recovery, and Climate Adaptation	Fraser Watersheds & Food Systems / Nature-based Infrastructure	MakeWay Charitable Society - Resilient Waters, is working with partners of the Lower Fraser Floodplains Coalition, to foster positive relationships between farmers and First Nations in the Fraser Valley, such as Skwah, Seabird Island and Leq'á:mel to encourage effective stewardship and sustainable management of water resources. The key objectives are to facilitate meaningful engagement, contribute to a more resilient floodplain system that supports thriving farms, strong First Nations partnerships, healthier salmon habitat and resilient and secure communities, and to co-create and implement actionable solutions that benefit all involved.	\$400,000
Quatsino First Nation	I'kilats sən's At'ł dŋu Wa (Healing the forest and rivers)	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Quatsino First Nation is leading this project to advance a Nation-led watershed stewardship, restoration, and governance initiative grounded in Quatsino rights, responsibilities, and knowledge systems. The key objectives are to strengthen Indigenous-led monitoring and decision-making, foster intergenerational learning and capacity-building, restore watershed health and culturally important species, gather monitoring data to inform corrective actions and adaptive management, and elevate Quatsino knowledge, values, and cultural protocols.	\$400,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Redd Fish Restoration Society (Redd Fish)	Healing Watersheds	South Coast Watershed Collaboration Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Redd Fish Restoration Society is partnering with Saaḥuusʔaṭḥ (Ahousaht) Fisheries, hiškʷiiʔaṭḥ (Hesquiaht) Fisheries, Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society (MHSS) to continue their work of evaluating and identifying optimal strategies to enhance the recovery of fish and wildlife habitats through watershed-level assessments. The key objectives are to conduct restoration with a holistic approach that comprehends the complexity of ecosystems, addresses the underlying causes of habitat degradation and species decline, and actively involves Indigenous leadership while fostering a stewardship ethos.	\$400,000
Rivershed Society of British Columbia (RSBC)	Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program: Bell Slough Corridor	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Rivershed Society of British Columbia is working in collaboration with Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition (FVWC), Xwchiyò:m (Cheam) First Nation, Sqwá First Nation, Save the Bell Slough Society, and landholders to restore private land adjacent to Bell Slough, as part of the Foodlands Corridor Restoration Program. The primary goals of this project are to restore habitat for species at risk along Bell Slough, foster community engagement, and connect with other local restoration efforts managed by the Cheam and Sqwá First Nations. In the long term, project activities aim to contribute to the restoration of the slough and reconnection with the wider water channel system including Hope, Camp and Nelson Sloughs.	\$150,000
Semiahmoo First Nation	La kw'e híkw íyáqt: Holistically improving the Tatalu Watershed	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watersheds & Food Systems	Semiahmoo First Nation is leading the Shared Water Alliance, a transboundary collaborative of various organizations and entities, to revitalize their traditional food sources of salmon and bivalves by restoring water quality and habitat conditions within the TA'TALU (Little Campbell) watershed. Through monitoring water quality to identify and address contamination within the TA'TALU and Semiahmoo Bay, the Shared Water Alliance aims to re-establish an Indigenous shellfish harvest.	\$396,000
Soowahlie First Nation	Sweltzer Creek Watershed Restoration	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Soowahlie First Nation is leading this project to undertake restoration activities in Sweltzer Creek Watershed, including replacing existing ineffective flood infrastructure required for community safety and flooding emergency management, improving fish passage and restoring habitat for aquatic/terrestrial species, and implementing continued monitoring.	\$150,000
Southern Interior Land Trust Society (SILT)	kłascxntm kłpalkstm iʔ nʔaʔxʷt - To look after and restore Ginty's Pond	Columbia Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Southern Interior Land Society (SILT) is partnering with Lower Similkameen Indian Band (LSIB) to heal Nʔaʔxʷt (nah hweet)—also known as Ginty's Pond—a 6.3-hectare wetland conservation property at Cawston, within smelqmix (LSIB) territory. This project will build on prior work that recovered 2.2 hectares of open water and created an additional 1.5 hectares of new riparian-woodland buffer to increase the amount of suitable habitat available for several species at risk.	\$150,000
Still Moon Arts Society (SMAS)	Still Creek Stewardship & Food Forest Project	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Watersheds & Food Systems	Still Moon Arts Society is leading this project to strengthen ecological and community resilience in Vancouver's Still Creek Watershed through riparian habitat restoration, ecological monitoring, community stewardship, and food forest activation. The key objectives are to engage community members in stewardship and ecological learning, improve habitat quality, foster local relationships with the watershed, and promote long-term creek health.	\$50,000

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The Dena Kayeh Institute (DKI)	Wetland Guardians: Dane Nan Yé Dāh Wetland Monitoring Program	Mackenzie Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	The Dena Kayeh Institute (DKI) is leading this project to build an Adaptive Monitoring and Management Framework, in which wetlands, lakes, floodplains and headwaters are critical habitats in tracking ecosystem functions and processes. Key objectives include co-developing a draft Wetland Monitoring Program that reflects the community's knowledge, values, and relationship with the land; implementing the program through a field campaign; developing a suite of remote sensing products to enhance field-based components of the program; and maintaining a consistent wetland monitoring approach within the territory on an ongoing basis beyond the length of the project.	\$400,000
The Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC)	Extending Collaborative Estuary Monitoring and Juvenile Salmonid Habitat Research Across Coastal BC	More than 1 Basin Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	The Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC) is partnering with Cowichan Tribes, Halalt First Nation, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Snaw-naw-as First Nation, Qualicum First Nation, K'ómoks First Nation, Kwakiutl First Nation, Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Uu-a-thluk (Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council Fisheries), Ahousaht First Nation, Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations, Tlowitsis First Nation, Da'naxda'xw-Awaetlala First Nation, Mamalilikulla First Nation, Nuxalk First Nation, Heiltsuk First Nation, the Council of Haida Nation, Salmon Watersheds Lab (Simon Fraser University), and the Hakai Institute, to expand a multi-year estuary monitoring and research initiative across 20 coastal sites in British Columbia. This work will sustain and expand collaborative water quality monitoring across 20 estuaries, advance understanding of juvenile salmon habitat use and estuary resilience, support Indigenous stewardship, training, and employment, ensure high-quality, accessible data, and inform watershed planning, restoration, and climate adaptation strategies.	\$150,000
The University of British Columbia, Okanagan (UBCO)	Co-creating a Framework for Governance of the sq'w'a (Peachland Creek) Community Watershed	Columbia Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watersheds & Food Systems	The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, is partnering with the En'owkin Centre and the District of Peachland to co-lead the co-creation of a Framework for Governance of the sq'w'a (Peachland Creek) Community Watershed, serving as an extension of the meaningful work undertaken in the Syilx Knowledge and Governance activities of the Watershed Ecosystems Project (WEP). This watershed illustrates the variety of complex socio-ecological challenges faced by multi-use, source (drinking) watersheds throughout the province, including the maintenance of a vibrant and resilient watershed ecosystem, while ensuring the provision of reliable and safe drinking water supplies amidst anthropogenic impacts from a variety of activities like forest harvest, recreation, cattle grazing, development and mining.	\$150,000
Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society (WTOS)	Rebuilding giis: Chinook salmon in the Widzin Kwa	Skeena Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	The Wet'suwet'en Nation is leading this project to rebuild Chinook salmon populations within the Widzin Kwa (Morice/Bulkley River) watershed,—an ecosystem that sustains Wet'suwet'en culture, food security, and community health. The overarching goal is to restore and protect a climate-resilient watershed that supports thriving salmon populations and Wet'suwet'en livelihoods for future generations.	\$400,000
Wildsight	Watershed Matters: Empowering Columbia Basin Youth and Inspiring Educators Across B.C.	Columbia Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing /Monitoring & Assessment	Wildsight is leading this project to empower grade 10-12 students across the Columbia River Basin to engage with climate and systems change and to sharpen critical thinking related to watershed management and governance. The primary activity is delivering three lessons facilitated by Wildsight's educational team in partnership with local school teachers, with the key outcome for students to understand the need for ongoing water monitoring and the collection, sharing, and analysis of data to effectively manage water.	\$40,000

Funded Projects

Spring 2025



Watershed Security Fund

The WSF Grants Program funded **28 projects totalling \$6,999,960** in its second intake (Fall 2024), with funds flowing Spring 2025.

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Bridge River Valley Community Association (BRVCA)	Bridge River Valley Watershed Health After the Wildfire	Fraser / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	The Bridge River Valley Community Association is leading this project, in partnership with Xwísten, to develop a collaborative plan that supports long-term watershed health and coordinates land-based seeding in fire-affected areas to improve water quality and resilience.	\$50,000
Cheam First Nation	Shxwístexw te Sqwá:la: Care for the Life Spirit of Hope Slough	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Xwchíyitò:m and Sqwá First Nations are leading this project to build on the work underway by various partners, municipal governments, federal and provincial agencies and not-for-profits to address watershed security and restore environmental and cultural values of the sacred area of Sqwá:la, the Hope Slough Watershed. Activities include fish habitat and riparian restoration, as well as education and knowledge sharing.	\$395,560
Gitksan Watershed Authorities (GWA)	Youth-led Lax'Yip Monitoring & Restoration	More than 1 Basin Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Monitoring & Assessment	Gitksan Watershed Authorities is leading this project to support environmental stewardship and encourage knowledge transfer from elders to younger generations through hands-on stewardship programs that include temperature and water quality monitoring and stream restoration activities.	\$398,000
Gitksan Laxyip Management Office	Gitksan Watershed Stewardship Engagement and Monitoring	Skeena Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Monitoring & Assessment	The Gitksan Laxyip Management Office is leading this project to strengthen Indigenous-led watershed planning, governance, and monitoring across the Gitksan Lax Yip, supporting land use planning, Guardian training, and TEK-based stewardship rooted in Gitksan law and UNDRIP.	\$150,000
Huu-ay-aht First Nations (HFN)	Assessment of Fish Passage and Drought Mitigation Strategies for Sarita River Chinook Salmon	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Huu-ay-aht First Nations is leading this project to restore fish passage and ecosystem function in the Sarita River through the Watershed Renewal Program, combining community-led actions and hydraulic modeling to improve habitat, water connectivity, and long-term watershed resilience.	\$150,000

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Ka:'yu:'k't'h'Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) Association (BRVCA)	Hydrology Unveiled: Capturing Nature's Narrative Through Integrated Water Monitoring	South Coast Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Ka:'yu:'k't'h'Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations (KCFN) is leading this project to honour water and advance KCFN's right to self-determination by establishing a robust watershed security monitoring network in their territories.	\$400,000
Kitasoo Xai'xais Nation	Kitasoo Xai'xais Important Fisheries Watershed (IFW) Monitoring & Governance	North Coast Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Kitasoo Xai'xais Stewardship Authority is leading this project to expand the local freshwater system monitoring, developing methodologies that meet provincial legal objectives while aligning with the nation's laws, customs and values, and managing climate-resilient food fish systems.	\$397,500
Kitseles First Nation	Research and Conceptual Design to Mitigate Sediment Inputs from the Clore Slides	Skeena Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration/ Nature-based Infrastructure	Kitseles First Nation is leading this project to assess and mitigate landslides along the Clore River to reduce sediment impacts on fish habitat in the Clore and Zymoetz Rivers and support long-term watershed health.	\$150,000
Lake Babine Nation (LBN)	Beaver Dam Analog Study Design	Skeena Other / Monitoring & Assessment	Lake Babine Nation is leading this project to develop a paired-watershed study design to identify and assess feasible restoration sites for sockeye-bearing streams using beaver dam analogs (BDAs), aiming to enhance climate resiliency across the Lake Babine watershed.	\$50,000
Lake Windermere Ambassadors (LWA)	Columbia Headwaters Stewardship Project	Columbia Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Lake Windermere Ambassadors, in partnership with the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society, is leading this project to monitor water quality and quantity, protect sensitive habitats, and engage the community in education and stewardship efforts to support the long-term health of the Columbia River headwaters.	\$41,550
Lax Kw'alaams Band Fisheries Department (LKB).	Developing a Watershed Management and Governance Strategy	More than 1 Basin Land & Water-based, Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Lax Kw'alaams Band – Fisheries Department (LKB) is leading this project to strengthen whole-of-watershed conservation planning by documenting and sharing Indigenous knowledge of aquatic species across marine and freshwater systems. Through community engagement events and workshops, the project aims to support LKB-led conservation strategies that integrate traditional knowledge with environmental protection, focusing on ecosystem health, species use, and habitat connectivity.	\$150,000
Lhtako Dene Nation Fisheries Department	Regional Channel Condition Assessment Mentoring and Restoration program	Fraser Monitoring & Assessment/ Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Lhtako Dene Nation Fisheries Department is leading this program to complete Channel Condition Inventories and support collaborative watershed stewardship while building capacity within the nation.	\$400,000
Mamalilikulla First Nation	Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala (Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound) IPCA Restoration and Stewardship	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Mamalilikulla First Nation is leading the this project to protect, conserve and restore the area's forests, lakes, streams, estuaries, cultural sites and marine corals and sponges in ways that reflect both Provincial laws and the Nation's stewardship concepts.	\$361,950

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McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB)	Kinosew sîpîy / Whutone gah saghé / Murray River Watershed Health and Governance	Mackenzie Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	McLeod Lake Indian Band, in partnership with Saulteau First Nations and West Moberly First Nations, are leading this project to protect and restore the Kinosew Sîpîy/Whutone Gah Saghé, Murray River Watershed by implementing the actions in the 2024 Watershed Health Assessment and upcoming 2025 Water Quality Objectives established through government policy.	\$400,000
Okanagan Indian Band	6 Mile/Equesis Creek Watershed Security Project	Columbia Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Watersheds & Food Systems	Okanagan Indian Band is leading a multi-phase restoration project in the Equesis/Six Mile Creek watershed to restore fish passage, enhance aquatic habitat, improve dam and road infrastructure, and strengthen watershed resilience through habitat restoration, infrastructure upgrades, and hydrological studies. The project will support salmonids, Rainbow Trout, and culturally significant species, while integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Syilx guidance.	\$400,000
Raincoast Conservation Foundation (Raincoast)	Mapping distribution and use of thermal refugia by salmon in the Coldwater River	Fraser / Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Raincoast Conservation Foundation, in partnership with Scw'exmx Tribal Council and Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly, is leading this project to map and assess cold water refugia in the Coldwater River to support salmon recovery and climate adaptation through habitat enhancement and watershed resilience.	\$107,500
Seabird Island (SI)	Maria Slough Monitoring and Knowledge Sharing Project	Fraser / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Seabird Island is leading this project to assess water quality, monitor Chinook Salmon spawners, and document aquatic species in Maria Slough, with the goal of guiding future restoration efforts and incorporating community knowledge into long-term stewardship planning.	\$49,900
Secwépemc Fisheries Commission (SFC) / Shuswap Nation Tribal Council Society (SNTC)	Secwépemc Séwllkwe (Water) Stewardship Initiative	Fraser / Monitoring & Assessment/ Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Secwépemc Fisheries Commission, on behalf of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council Society, is leading water monitoring program enhancements and establishing a Secwépemc Water Data Hub to better understand their environmental data needs and advance their fisheries stewardship efforts, especially in light of recent fires, droughts, and floods.	\$400,000
Skidegate Band Council (SBC)	Save Tam Gundlaay: Creating Climate Resilient Salmon Habitat in Skidegate	North Coast Watersheds & Food Systems / Nature-based Infrastructure	Skidegate Band Council is leading this climate adaptation project to protect Tam Gundlaay (Mission Creek) by restoring stream resilience to drought. Rooted in Haida law, community stewardship, and nature-based solutions, the project aims to support juvenile salmon through habitat improvements, invasive species removal, infrastructure upgrades, and water retention strategies.	\$150,000
Splitrock Environmental Sekw'el'was	Safeguarding Watersheds through Collaborative Governance in St'át'imc Territory	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Monitoring & Assessment	Splitrock Environmental Sekw'el'was is leading this project to restore watershed health and strengthen climate resilience in St'át'imc Territory through community-led monitoring, traditional knowledge sharing, and long-term data collection.	\$150,000
Sts'ailes	Miami River floating wetlands Initiative	Fraser Nature-based Infrastructure / Watersheds & Food Systems	Sts'ailes is leading this project to install floating wetlands in the Miami River to improve water quality, support cultural harvesting and knowledge-sharing, and strengthen relationships with local governments around watershed stewardship.	\$150,000

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Taku River Tlingit First Nation	At Xá Koogu Watersheds: A Framework for Managing Cumulative Effects in Culturally Significant Watersheds	Yukon Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Taku River Tlingit First Nation is leading this project to address cumulative impacts within three watersheds on the east side of Á Tlèn (Atlin Lake). The restoration goals will support clean water and healthy fish and wildlife, food security, sustainable economies, healthy lifestyles, and the continuity of the Lingit ways of life long-term.	\$300,000
Tla'amin Nation	Rewater toqʷanan to Rebuild Salmon and Support ʕaʕamun Nation Well-Being	South Coast Pacific Ocean Seaboard Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Tla'amin Nation Government is leading this project to increase climate resiliency, food security and cultural wellbeing within the territories by restoring salmon populations and ecosystems impacted by industry activities. The project will increase understanding of current conditions and develop defensible, feasible, and actionable pathways for the rewatering of toqʷanan.	\$400,000
Ulkatcho First Nation (UFN)	Monitoring Program to Support Development of Watershed Management Plan for Ulkat	More than 1 Basin / Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Ulkatcho First Nation is developing a Watershed Management Plan to address data gaps and support long-term watershed health. Baseline monitoring on four key rivers will inform restoration priorities, salmon access, and community-led stewardship.	\$150,000
Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance	Indigenous-led Aquatic Habitat Monitoring in the Upper Fraser Watershed	Fraser Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance, in collaboration with First Nation partners, are developing a network of stations in small streams and lakes in the Upper Fraser to address the significant information gap needed for salmon, aquatic habitat and landscape management decisions.	\$400,000
WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society	ʕIKEL Wetland Restoration	More than 1 Basin Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	The WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society, in partnership with the District of Central Saanich, is leading this project to restore the WSÁNEĆ connection to their Land and Water through the rehabilitation of 26 hectares of sacred wetland ecosystems damaged by colonial suppression of Indigenous stewardship, agriculture, development, stormwater engineering, and beaver removal.	\$400,000
Wuikinuxv Nation	Wuikinuxv Lake Watershed Security Project	North Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	The Wuikinuxv Nation Stewardship Department of the Wuikinuxv Nation is leading this project to expand on the scientific and TEK-based watershed knowledge for Wuikinuxv Restoration Staff, train restoration technicians, acquire infrastructure to facilitate restoration activities, and continue hosting culture camps to connect the community with watersheds.	\$398,000
Yekooche Economic Development Corporation, Keyoh Ik'utsusla (KIU)	Nancut Creek Watershed and Climate Risk Assessment	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Yekooche Economic Development Corporation, Keyoh Ik'utsusla (KIU) is leading this watershed and climate risk assessment for the Nancut Creek watershed to identify key values, assess climate and landscape-related risks, and develop priority actions that support long-term watershed health and resilience in Yekooche First Nation's territory.	\$50,000

Funded Projects

Fall 2024



Watershed Security Fund

The WSF Grants Program funded **26 projects totalling \$4,975,000** in its inaugural intake (Summer 2024), with funds flowing Fall 2024.

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
B.C. Nature (BCN)	Papt Ku Gwenis: Gwenis Forever Project	Fraser Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Watersheds & Food Systems	B.C. Nature is partnering with Tsal'alh First Nation on this project to work with St'át'imc community members to document the significance of Gwenis to the surrounding human and ecological communities, raise awareness of the unique population of Kokanee Salmon in Anderson and Seton Lakes, understand Gwenis ecology and the threats they face, and identify community priorities for restoration action—ensuring the long-term sustainability of Gwenis.	\$50,000
Chu Cho Environmental LLP (CCE)	Tsay Keh Dene Nation Biodiversity Monitoring Program	Mackenzie Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Chu Cho Environmental and Tsay Keh Dene (TKD) Nation are partnering on this project to continue the implementation and support the expansion of the Tsay Keh Dene Nation Biodiversity Monitoring Program (TKDN-BMP). The TKDN-BMP is a watershed-based and landscape-scale, multi-taxa biodiversity monitoring program across a disturbance gradient in the Mesilinka, Ingenika and Ospika watersheds in TKD Nation territory. The project aims to understand how biodiversity is related to disturbance and collect detailed baseline data on biodiversity within watersheds that are of importance for management by TKD Nation.	\$400,000
Cowichan Watershed Society (CWS)	Rooting Indigenous-Led Collaborative Governance: Quw'utsun-Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan-Koksilah) Watershed	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	The Cowichan Watershed Board, a collaborative governance model led by Cowichan Tribes and Cowichan Valley Regional District, is implementing this program to increase their ability to support local leaders making and implementing collaborative decisions for the health of the Quw'utsun-Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan-Koksilah) Watershed. An identified priority is to grow the team with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth as tomorrow's leaders in watershed stewardship and rooting this unique form of collaborative governance and partnership systems as the foundation of how we work for our watersheds and the natural world in the Cowichan Valley.	\$400,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Ditidaht First Nation	Developing an IPCA Plan to Protect Watersheds and Old Growth in Ditidaht Territory	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Ditidaht First Nation is partnering with Nature-Based Solutions Foundation on this project to create a planning and implementation strategy for establishing Indigenous Protected & Conserved Areas (IPCAs) in their territory, providing an essential foundation and roadmap for protecting critical watersheds, old-growth forests, and important ecological and cultural areas.	\$145,000
Gitwangak	Gitwangak Watershed Management Plan	Skeena Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watersheds & Food Systems	Gitwangak is leading this project to develop a Watershed Management Plan to ensure the protection and longevity of the community water sources. Their existing water sources are at risk of flooding but the community has secured a new water source location as part of long-term capital infrastructure project. Through the Watershed Management Plan, Gitwangak aims to engage with organizations operating within the community to establish parameters of operation within the watershed including a security plan, risk management, and standards to ensure watershed protection.	\$50,000
Gitxaala Territorial Management Agency (GTMA)	Rooting Indigenous-Led Collaborative Governance: Quw'utsun-Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan-Koksilah) Watershed	North Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Monitoring & Assessment	Gitxaala Territorial Management Agency is leading this project to enhance fundamental knowledge of the Pitt Island Mink Trap Watershed, contributing to a base understanding of this important system that sustains the biodiversity and health of Gitxaala Laxyuubm and people. Mink Trap Bay and the associated Pitt Island watershed is an area of significant cultural and ecological importance, and the Gitxaala Nation continue to rely on this watershed for freshwater and terrestrial based harvesting.	\$150,000
k'w'ik'w'əłəm First Nation	Developing an IPCA Plan to Protect Watersheds and Old Growth in Ditidaht Territory	Fraser Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	The Kwikwetlem First Nation is partnering with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the City of Coquitlam to reconnect the Reeve Slough to the Coquitlam River. The project is supporting 10 engineering, environmental, archaeology, project management position and 8 construction crew and environmental monitoring positions. It will mitigate flood risk while reconnecting 31,800 square meters of habitat to the Coquitlam River and it will create 600 square meters of new spawning and rearing habitat.	\$400,000
Lilwat Nation	Birkenhead River Habitat Restoration	South Coast Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Nature-based Infrastructure	Lilwat Nation is leading this project to restore, improve, and increase habitat for salmon and other riverine species, and reduce ongoing threats to these habitats. The objectives for this project are to complete three high priority Chinook salmon restoration activities for the Birkenhead River including placement of a gravel pad at the outlet of Birkenhead Lake; targeted blasting of an impassable bedrock barrier that has caused a large wood jam upstream; and construction of riffle ramps into Pasture Creek, using gravel and cobble, to facilitate the movement of juvenile Chinook.	\$140,000
Lytton First Nation (LFN)	Lytton First Nation Alkali Ditch Repair/Rehabilitation	Fraser Watersheds & Food Systems / Nature-based Infrastructure	Lytton First Nation is leading this project to complete conceptual hydrologic and hydraulic design for two repair strategies for the Alkali Ditch. Alkali Ditch is the primary surface water source to the Lytton First Nation East Fraser traditional lands that was developed by ancestors to provide community members with access to water. The Ditch was significantly damaged by the 2021 Lytton Creek Wildfire and is currently inoperable leaving Nation members without a consistent water for irrigation, fire protection, and in some instances, drinking water.	\$150,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Malahat Nation	Malahat-Led Watershed Governance: Exploring Models and Jurisdictional Needs	South Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Malahat Nation is leading this project to develop a watershed governance model for the Malahat Benchlands and Shawnigan Creek watersheds. The project will investigate various governance models that could be adapted to a Malahat-led context; identify the jurisdictional and legal considerations of relevance; and engage with other First Nations communities, local stakeholders, community members, knowledge holders, and governance experts to gather insights and recommendations.	\$50,000
Nak'azdli Whut'en (NW)	Collaborative Watershed Planning and Assessment Development	More than 1 basin Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Monitoring & Assessment	The Nak'azdli Whut'en Stewardship Department is partnering with the Nak'azdli Whut'en Economic Development arm on this project to collate and review watershed tools and analyses currently available and to incorporate knowledge sharing into the outcomes and activities. This collaboration will focus integrating stewardship objectives into operations and practices for Nak'azdli's woodland tenure and other forest industry partners.	\$50,000
Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)	kłúsxnitkw (Okanagan Lake) Watershed Responsibility Planning Initiative	Columbia Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Okanagan Nation Alliance is partnering with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program on this project to change decision making processes, policy and land use practices to increase protection and security measures for siw+k ^w (water) across the entire Okanagan and Similkameen T'áctxap tl tqalqaltikn (watersheds).	\$400,000
Old Massett Village Council (OMVC)	A Watershed of Restoration on the River of Life—The The Yaagun Gandlee Watershed	North Coast Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Old Massett Village Council is partnering with Ecotrust Canada on this project to develop and implement a 2-year Environmental Restoration Program to support community members to return to and restore their lands. In partnership with the University of Victoria Environmental Restoration Program, the project will support the participation of six community members for 17 weeks of field work and educational activities per year as full-time summer students. Activities include learning how to identify, harvest, grow and nurture key species of native plants for restoration purposes. This project provides a framework to move the community back to their lands for healing and restoration to begin.	\$400,000
Raincoast Conservation Foundation (Raincoast)	Determining environmental flow needs in the Nicola River watershed in the context of climate change	Fraser Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Raincoast Conservation Foundation is partnering with Scw'exmx Tribal Council to determine Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) criteria for three important salmon spawning and rearing streams in the Nicola River Watershed: Spius Creek, Lower Nicola River, and the Coldwater River. This data will be used to guide water conservation drought response, water allocation, habitat restoration, and watershed governance. This work is critically important following the November 2021 floods that dramatically altered stream habitat across the Nicola River Watershed.	\$50,000
Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK)	Building our partnership for working together on water sustainability for yaqan nu?kiy?amak?is - Creston Valley	Columbia Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watersheds & Food Systems	Yaqan nu?kiy and Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) are partnering to address our growing concerns regarding water and its availability in yaqan nu?kiy?amak?is-Creston Valley. Residents' lives and their livelihoods are increasingly vulnerable to the cascading and compounding effects of the climate crisis, natural disasters and the pressures agriculture, industrial activity, development and recreational use have on our watersheds. Together, we would like protect watersheds where consumptive water sources are at risk by creating the conditions for regional collaborative decision-making.	\$150,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Saik'uz First Nation (SFN) Land and Resources Department	Noolhk'ai-Tachek-Sinkut Pilot Project (NTSPP)	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	Saik'uz and the Province of B.C are partnering to replace the current watershed management and regulatory tools used by B.C. to a rights-based stewardship framework grounded in the implementation of the Yinka Dene Water Law and supported by traditional governance. The intention of this proposal is to support the design and implementation of a monitoring program that will fill the current data gaps with respect to water quantity, relationship of surface to ground water recharge and impact to fish.	\$150,000
Salmon Parks Stewardship Society (SPSS)	The Č'ačaatuksuu Project (take care of the water)	South Coast Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing / Monitoring & Assessment	Salmon Parks Stewardship Society (SSPS) was formed by the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN) Council of Chiefs to implement the Nation's vision for salmon-related stewardship and will be leading this project. The Č'ačaatuksuu Project will document important cultural and ecological values, locations and features within the salmon watersheds that are being protected through the Salmon Parks IPCA. While the focus is on land-based learning and lifting up MMFN youth and elders, there will also be opportunities for youth to document the work they are doing with training from experienced videographers.	\$150,000
Skeena Fisheries Commission (SFC)	Fish passage restoration in the Gitksan Traditional Territory	Skeena Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Skeena Fisheries Commission (SFC) and Gitksan Watershed Authority (GWA) are partnering on this project to address urgent and long-term watershed health and security issues by supporting connectivity and resilience in degraded habitat locations. This project will support ongoing work by the SFC and GWA to remediate a minimum of two high priority stream crossings in the Gitksan territory.	\$140,000
Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition (SWCC)	Collaborative Skeena Watershed Stewardship & Climate Resilience Solutions	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	The Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition is leading this project. With a focus on the remote, predominantly undeveloped headwaters and upper section of the Skeena watershed, the purpose of the Collaborative Skeena Watershed Stewardship & Climate Resilience Solutions project is to support Gitksan Huwilp territorial planning and solutions to protect and restore watershed security and health in the Skeena, to enhance watershed monitoring capacity on Wilp territories, and to address watershed impacts using innovative community solutions for watershed security in the Skeena.	\$400,000
St'át'imc Government Services (SGS)	Statimc watershed security in relation to climate change impacts, adaptation scenarios and wildfire preparedness	Fraser Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance / Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration	St'át'imc Government Services is developing a framework for emergency preparedness in the St'át'imc Nation, with a focus on wildfire preparedness, within an integrated watershed security management system.	\$50,000
T̓silhqot'in National Government	Indigenous-led water aquatic habitat monitoring in the Chilko/Chilcotin Watershed	Fraser Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	The T̓silhqot'in National Government (TNG) is leading this project. The water quality and quantity (WQQ) monitoring program has been identified by T̓silhqot'in leadership as a priority and is focused on three systems with critical salmon nursery areas: the T̓silhqox (Chilko), Dasiqox (Taseko), and Chežqox (Chilcotin) river systems. From site selection, to field work, to data ownership and management, the program supports T̓silhqot'in capacity building, timely access to high quality data, and leadership in water governance and management – all critical to proactive decision making on water and responding to climate change and other impacts on fish, habitat, and overall watershed health.	\$400,000

Leading Organization	Project Name	Area Served and Themes	Project Description	Grant Amount
Tū'desē'cho Wholistic Indigenous Leadership Development (TWILD)	Tū endān , is Tahltan for “you are drinking water”.	More than 1 basin Monitoring & Assessment / Land & Water-based Learning, Knowledge Sharing	Tū'desē'cho Wholistic Indigenous Leadership Development (TWILD) is leading this project to monitor water quality and to assist in the creation of the Tahltan Science curriculum K-12. The curriculum will provide land and water-based learning for youth to participate in the multi-generational collection of scientific data and Tahltan observations and knowledge to changing water and lands.	\$50,000
Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band	Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program	Fraser Monitoring & Assessment / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Whispering Pines/Clinton Indian Band Territorial Stewardship Office (TSO) is leading this project to support the development of a monitoring program by engaging and collaborating with community, ranchers and other range users; engagement with the province of BC and WLRS to establish baseline data and information collection; and the development of action and management plans for watershed to restore and protect watershed health.	\$50,000
Wilps 'Wii K'aax (WWK)	Wilps 'Wii K'aax Territorial Stewardship Initiative	Skeena Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Watershed Collaboration, Planning & Governance	Wilps 'Wii K'aax with its Chiefs (Simgigyet), Matriarchs (Sigidim Hana'k), and citizens are leading this initiative to protect and manage their Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area, covering 214,193 hectares within the Sustut, Babine, and Upper Skeena watersheds. Their primary objectives are to restore ecosystem health through current status and conditions analysis, water quality assessments, biodiversity restoration, forest management and BC Rail grade remediation; promote socio-cultural wellbeing through reconnecting citizens with their lands (lax'yip), traditional practices and cultural heritage; and foster sustainable economic development by creating business opportunities that align with our laws (Ayookw), values and environmental stewardship such as sustainable Indigenous agriculture and silviculture, village site services and cultural infrastructure.	\$400,000
Witset First Nation	John Brown Creek Rehabilitation post 2023 wildfire	Skeena Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Monitoring & Assessment	Witset First Nation is leading this project to identify and mitigate the root causes of silt build-up from Corya Creek, the community's main source of fresh, clean drinking water, which was exacerbated by the wildfire in 2023 and the resulting fire guard construction. This project aims to restore the natural habitat at the disturbed sites, ensure a sustainable and resilient water supply system, and reduce the financial burden of frequent filter replacements on the water treatment facility.	\$50,000
ʔaqam	ʔaki# kansquwik Sina: Working with Beavers to Build Climate Resilience in Cherry Creek	Columbia Watershed & Ecosystems Restoration / Nature-based Infrastructure	ʔaqam is partnering with Friends of Cherry Creek on this project to increase collective knowledge of the current health of Sina/beaver wetlands within ʔaki# kansquwik (the Cherry/Mather Creek watershed) and begin to build the capacity and expertise needed to develop and implement actions that will maximize Sina populations across Ktunaxa traditional territory in future.	\$150,000

This listing was last reviewed and updated on April 6, 2026