



**HEALTHY
WATERSHEDS
INITIATIVE**

Our Water, Our Future

Interim report on job creation, watershed restoration, reconciliation, and climate action

30 AUGUST 2021



StrongerBC



Healthy Watersheds Initiative Partners



The Real Estate Foundation of BC is a philanthropic organization that works to advance sustainable land use and real estate practices in British Columbia. Since 1988, REFBC has granted more than \$90 million for research, education, and policy projects that strengthen BC communities and protect our land and water.

Learn more: refbc.com



Watersheds BC works to strengthen capacity for local watershed governance and security. Watersheds BC provides training, resources, and peer-to-peer support to local government staff, First Nations, watershed boards and roundtables, regional provincial staff, and other watershed professionals.

Learn more: watershedsbc.ca



The Province of BC has invested \$37 million (including \$27 million through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative) for projects that support healthy watersheds, species, and ecosystems, and create new jobs in areas that are critical to help communities adapt to the effects of climate change. This funding is part of the Province's \$10-billion COVID-19 response to help people in hard-hit industries.

Learn more: strongerbc.gov.bc.ca

This report was prepared by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative staff team, with contributions from partner organizations and project leads.

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INTRODUCTION

Investing in BC's Watersheds

Nothing grows without water: no food, no fish, no forests.

People in British Columbia have a lot of love for water – and care deeply for the health of the watersheds that sustain us.

When our watersheds are healthy, they provide fresh water that's safe to drink, good for growing food and needed to sustain our communities and economies.

In a recent public opinion poll¹, a majority of British Columbians said they are concerned about declining salmon stocks (86%), endangered species and at-risk ecosystems (82%), and climate change (76%) – issues that are linked to the health of our watersheds. In another poll², most BC residents said they support major investments in watershed security and strong action to protect BC's fresh water (69%).

With all that we're experiencing now - from dried-up streams to droughts to wildfires - it's obvious that our watersheds are in need of a lifeline.

Nothing works without water. Streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands help to cycle nutrients, store carbon, absorb floods and storm water, sustain our forests, purify the air we breathe, feed our families, and support community and mental health.

Through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, people across the province are working to protect the freshwater ecosystems we all depend on.

1. Insights West. July 23, 2021.
(<https://www.insightswest.com/news/pacific-salmon-july2021>)
2. McAllister Opinion Research. May 2021.

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative

As part of its \$10-billion COVID-19 economic recovery plan, the Province of British Columbia has provided \$27 million for watershed conservation and restoration projects in communities across the province.

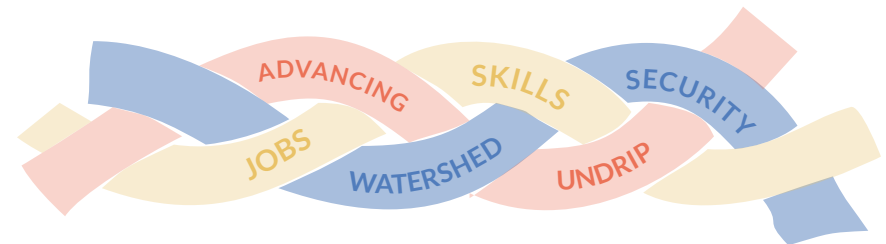
The Real Estate Foundation of BC is administering this funding through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative and working with Watersheds BC to support the successful implementation of 61 watershed security projects.

HWI-supported projects are expected to employ more than 700 people, creating work and training opportunities for people and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project teams are working to restore rivers and streams, protect salmon habitat, manage water flows, collect data, and conduct watershed mapping and sustainability planning. In turn, these projects help communities adapt to climate change, protect drinking water, restore critical habitat, and advance implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, which is BC's commitment to upholding the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

Many Priorities, Connected by Water

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative is creating jobs, supporting Indigenous leadership, and restoring the freshwater ecosystems we all depend on.



First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations are managing nearly a third (31%) of these projects. Other project proponents are partnering on projects identified and led by First Nations, or working with First Nations to make sure that work in their territories is done in a good way that respects Indigenous knowledge and traditions, includes economic opportunities for Indigenous people, and strengthens relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners.

L-R: Wildcoast Ecological Society staff and volunteers remove invasive blackberry and ivy from MacKay Marsh. Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh territory. (Photos: HWI staff)



Six Months In

Because the Healthy Watersheds Initiative is part of B.C.'s Economic Recovery Plan, projects are taking place on an accelerated timeline:

- Project proponents submitted budgets and workplans from December 2020 onwards. As plans were developed, REFBC worked with proponents on funding agreements and payment schedules.
- Project work – including permitting, hiring, work, and community engagement – is expected to take place between January 1 and December 15, 2021.
- Through the course of the year, REFBC and Watersheds BC will gather information from project proponents to support learning and evaluation.

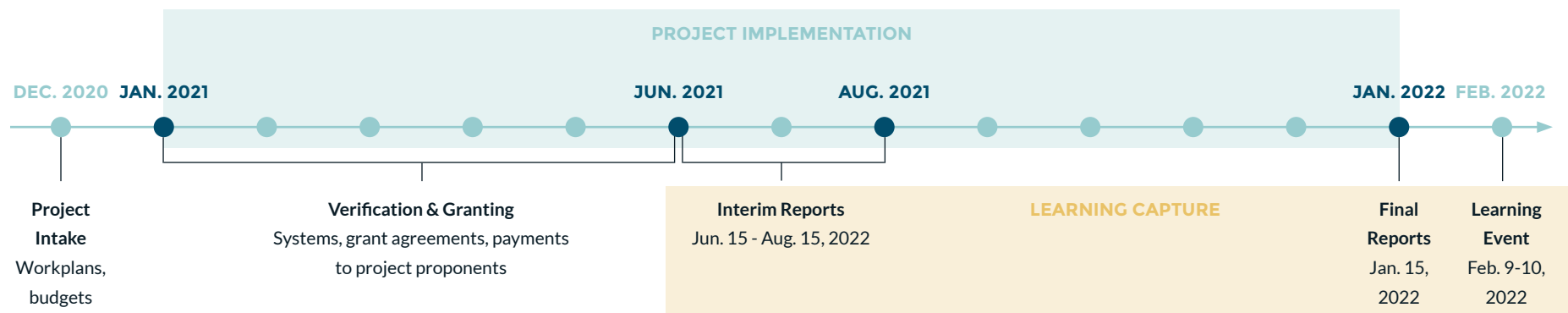
This report includes information about the 61 projects being supported through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, early insights from project proponents and HWI team members, preliminary findings on impacts and benefits, and highlights on shared learning.

These reflections offer an early overview of how projects are creating jobs and building skills, restoring watersheds, supporting climate adaptation, and advancing progress on UNDRIP.

To prepare this report, our team drew on data from:

- 61 grant agreements, which include budgets, workplans, and projects economic and environmental benefits.
- 51 interim reports submitted by project proponents, which include data on jobs created, demographics of new hires, and project activities, highlights, and challenges.
- Quotes and insights provided by project proponents and partners in interviews, emails, and updates to HWI staff members.
- Photos, maps, and graphics supplied by project teams.

HWI / Program Timeline





BY THE NUMBERS

HWI Projects

As of July 2021, the Healthy Watersheds Initiative supports 61 projects in communities across British Columbia.

Before beginning work, proponents submitted work plans, budgets, and details on their projects. These documents, submitted in late 2020 and early 2021 as part of the HWI intake process, include important information on project leadership, partners, work site locations, and phases of work.

In this section, we've summarized information from intake documents to illustrate the complexity and scale of these projects.

For a full list of HWI-supported projects, visit healthywatersheds.ca/projects to search by region.

61 projects are receiving funding through HWI.

\$23.7M in HWI grants have been awarded to date.

\$180,154 is the median grant amount for HWI-supported projects.

\$10M+ in additional (leveraged) funding from other sources reported to date.

Project Locations, Regions, Water Basins

HWI funding supports 61 projects, with work taking place at more than 200 sites across the province. The map on the right shows the spread of work sites across major watershed basins and geographic regions in British Columbia.

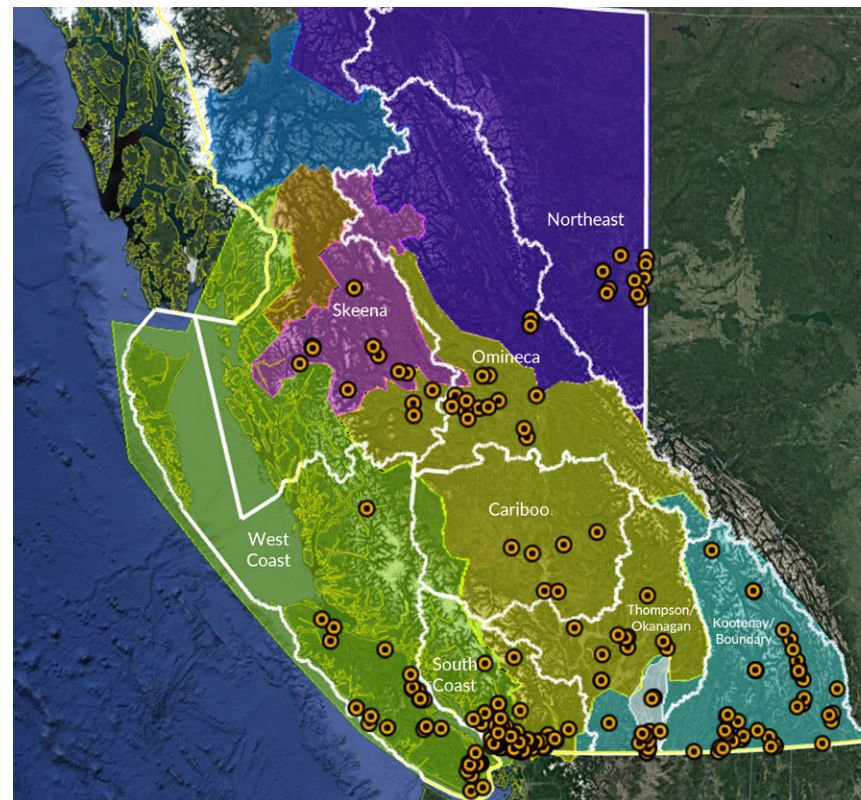
The coloured blocks show the approximate drainage basins of **major river systems** in BC – see the legend at right. The white boundary lines and white text labels show the boundaries of the **natural resource regions** used by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

Our team is developing an interactive version of this map, which will be added to healthywatersheds.ca this fall.

What's a drainage basin?

A drainage basin is the area where precipitation, like rain or snow, falls and flows out into streams, rivers, or waterways. They are made up of both surface water (like creeks and rivers), and groundwater (water that is seeped into the ground). The boundaries of the drainage basin are usually defined by the highest elevation that drains into that water body.

HWI / Work Site Locations



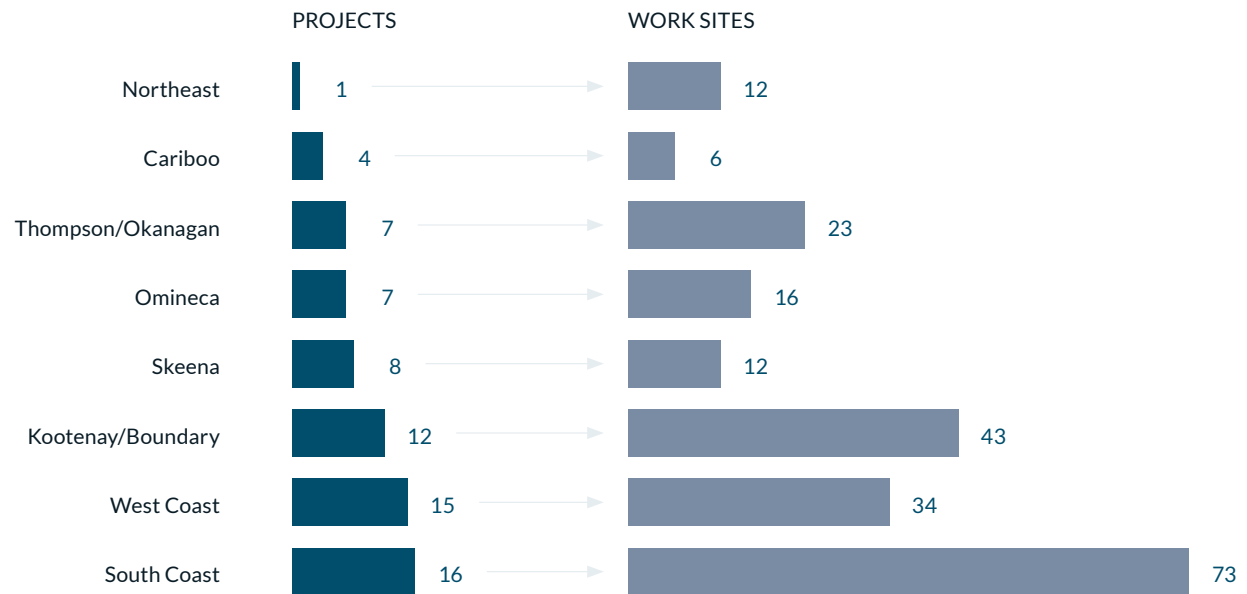
Major Drainage Basins

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ● Columbia | ● Nass | ● Skeena |
| ● Fraser | ● Okanagan | ● Stikine |
| ● Mackenzie | ● Pacific Coast | |

HWI / Regions

The chart to the right shows a breakdown of HWI projects and approximate number of work sites by FLNRORD natural resource region.

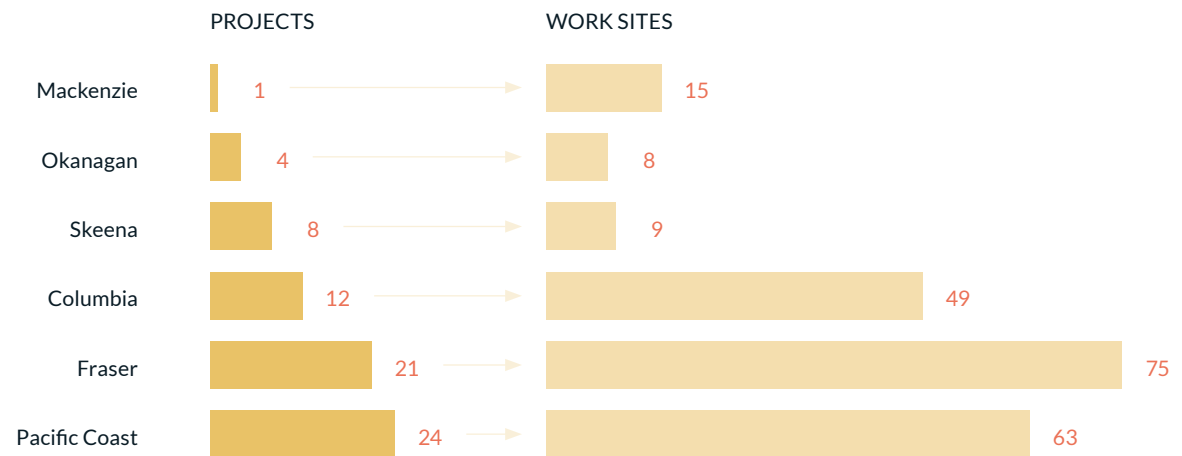
Note: Some projects include work in more than one region, and may be counted twice or more.



HWI / Drainage Basins

The chart to the right shows a breakdown of HWI projects and approximate number of work sites by water drainage basin.

Note: Some projects include work in more than one basin, and may be counted twice or more.



Project Types: Priorities, Environmental Actions, Climate Focus

Watershed work is complex. HWI project teams are working at the intersection of community, ecosystem, economy, and climate, while also combining Indigenous knowledge and traditions with western methods and tools.

To reflect the dimensions of this work, our team used five watershed security categories, developed by Watersheds BC and the BC Watershed Security Coalition, to describe the types of projects HWI funding supports. During the intake process, proponents chose the category that best matched their project.

HWI / Watershed Priorities



Fish-Friendly Flows

Projects that include infrastructure installation or replacement to support the many fish species in our shared waterways.

 7 projects, totaling
 \$1,337,000 in grants

Example:

The Squamish River Watershed Society is removing obstructions to restore fish habitat connectivity between a river and estuary.



Healthy Communities

Projects that create opportunities to improve the health of the communities we live, work, and play in.

 16 projects, totaling
 \$3,532,599 in grants

Example:

A Rocha Canada is bringing local partners together to monitor water quality and contamination in order to restore traditional shellfish harvesting areas.



Indigenous Partnerships

Projects that focus on advancing reconciliation and Indigenous participation in freshwater decision-making.

 15 projects, totaling
 \$6,203,295 in grants

Example:

T̓silhqot̓'in National Government is designing and implementing a water quality and quantity monitoring program to fill information gaps and support Indigenous-led water and ecosystem management.



Sustainable Agriculture

Projects that include farmers, ranchers, and food producers in creating healthy watersheds for all water users.

 3 projects, totaling
 \$1,169,828 in grants

Example:

BC Investment Agriculture Fund is working with farmers and food producers to conserve and restore critical riparian areas.



Watershed Renewal

Projects that support the revitalization of natural areas at the watershed scale.

 20 projects, totaling
 \$11,436,541 in grants

Example:

The Nechako Environment & Water Stewardship Society is hiring crews to restore critical watershed tributaries through habitat creation, fence construction, revegetation, and bank stabilization.

Another way of looking at the breadth of projects is through the Province of BC's 10 Environmental Action Categories.

These categories have been adapted from the **Conservation Measures Partnership's** Conservation Action Classifications (v2.0), an internationally-recognized set of standards for environmental practices.

During HWI's intake process, proponents were asked to check the action categories their project addresses or supports.

HWI / Environmental Action Categories

1	Land / Water Management includes site/ecosystem stewardship and habitat restoration.	49 projects	
2	Species Management includes species stewardship, re-introduction and translocation, and ex-situ conservation.	27 projects	
3	Awareness Raising includes outreach and communications.	48 projects	
4	Law Enforcement & Prosecution includes illegal acts detection, criminal prosecution and conviction, and other non-criminal legal action.	0 projects	
5	Livelihood, Economic & Moral Incentives includes improved products and management practices, market-based incentives, direct economic incentives, and non-monetary values.	21 projects	
6	Conservation Designation & Planning includes protected area designation and/or acquisition, easements and resource rights, as well as land/water use zoning, and conservation.	22 projects	
7	Legal & Policy Frameworks includes laws, regulations and codes, as well as policy and guidelines.	9 projects	
8	Research & Monitoring includes basic research and status monitoring, as well as evaluation, effectiveness, measures and learning.	51 projects	
9	Education & Training includes formal education, as well as training and individual capacity development.	50 projects	
10	Institutional Development includes internal organizational management and administration, external organizational development and support, alliance and partnership development, and financing conservation.	49 projects	

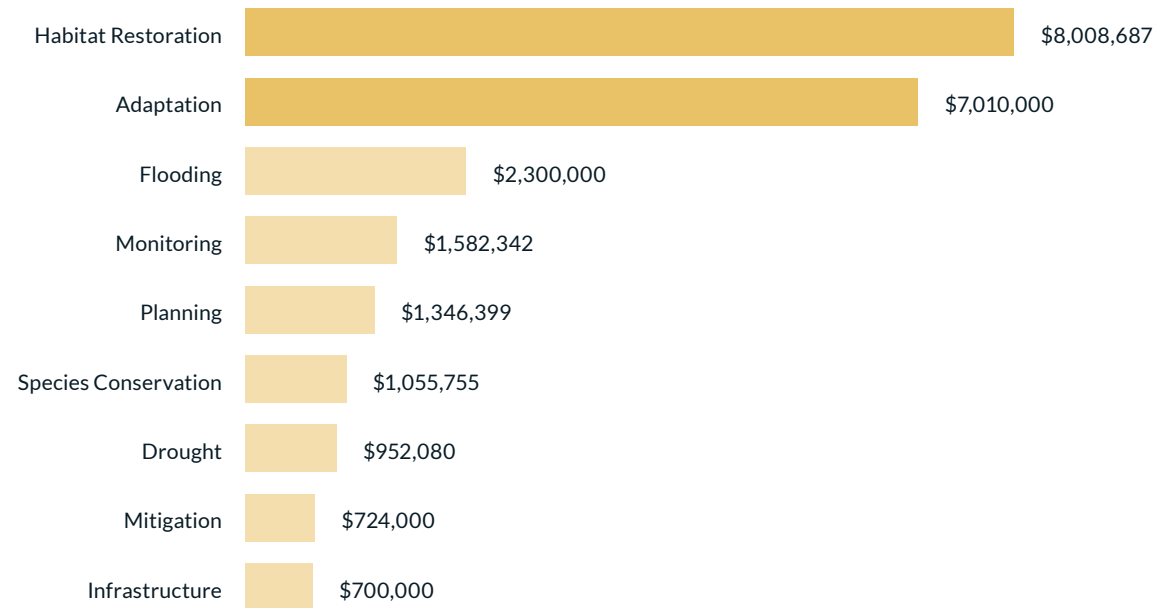
Note: Most projects are aligned with more than one climate action category.

All 61 HWI-supported projects support climate change adaptation or mitigation.

Notably, more than \$8 million of HWI project funding is contributing to habitat restoration and another \$7 million is supporting climate adaptation.

For more details about how HWI project teams are addressing climate change, skip ahead to the project benefits section on climate (page 25).

HWI / Climate Change Focus



Project Leadership: Proponent Organizations

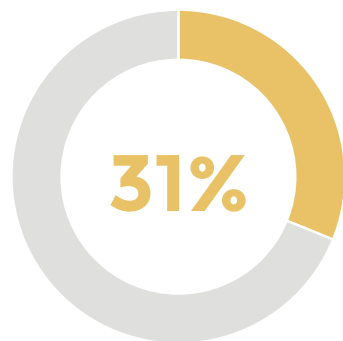
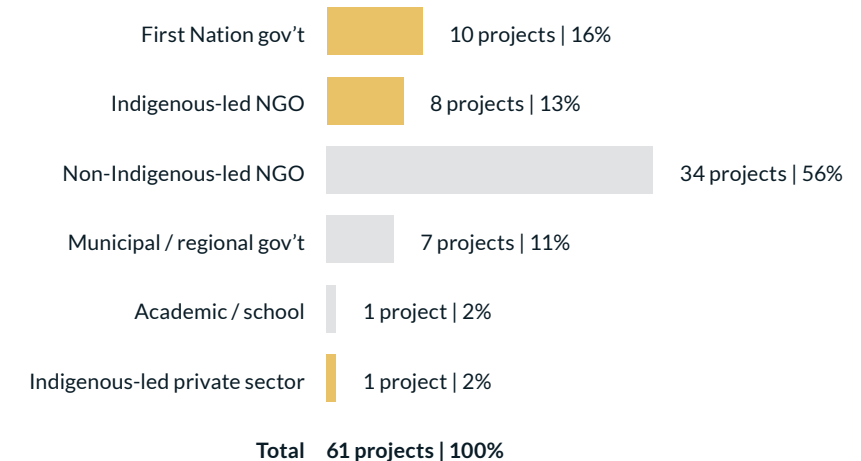
HWI funding is supporting projects led by a wide mix of proponent organizations.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which include registered charities and non-profit organizations, are leading 42 HWI projects (69%). Of those, eight project grants have been awarded to Indigenous-led NGOs and 34 have been awarded to non-Indigenous-led NGOs.

First Nation governments are leading 10 HWI projects (16%) and **municipal and regional governments** are leading seven HWI projects (11%).

An **academic institution** and **Indigenous-led private sector** (LLC) organization are each leading an HWI project (2% each).

HWI / Proponent Organization Type



HWI / Indigenous Leadership

In total, 19 HWI project grants (31%) are with Indigenous-led organizations.

It's important to note that, during the HWI intake process, proponents were asked to self-identify whether or not their organization is Indigenous-led.

At the time, our team did not provide guidance or a definition of how organizations should make this determination.

In future reporting questions, we recommend including guidelines and/or resources (such as **this matrix**, from The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada) to help organizations make determinations.

Background: How Projects Were Selected

For many years, groups working in freshwater sustainability, watershed governance, and watershed health have been networking and collaborating to support a shared goal of watershed security.

In response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of these groups came together through the **BC Watershed Security Coalition** to build a case for public investment in watershed security to both stimulate the economy and support critical work to sustain freshwater ecosystems.

As part of this work, Watersheds BC (WBC) and the POLIS Water Sustainability Project (at the University of Victoria) led a survey of a broad range of watershed organizations and communities to collect more than 140 proposals for “shovel-worthy” projects that could be supported with stimulus funding. Watersheds BC and POLIS shared the survey results with the Province of British Columbia.

When the Province prepared the B.C. Economic Recovery Plan, it allocated \$27 million for investments in watershed initiatives and wetlands projects.

To refine the list of projects that could be supported through this investment, Provincial staff completed a technical and eligibility review of the proposals, and looked for projects that could:

- Provide immediate job creation for vulnerable communities most impacted by COVID-19, including women, young adults, and Indigenous people.
- Help communities increase watershed security and climate resilience.
- Support First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations working to restore ecosystems, wildlife, and fisheries in their territories.

The Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) is leading the administration of funding for the Healthy Watersheds Initiative and working with WBC to support project implementation.

During the intake process, REFBC and WBC staff members reviewed project plans and budgets, and REFBC’s Board of Governors approved the final list of projects.



L-R: Members of the BC Water Funders Collaborative join Indigenous community leaders for a tour of the Nicola watershed in 2019. Sylix Okanagan territory. (Photos: REFBC staff)

Partnerships and Collaboration

Watersheds are complex spaces – and communities, industries, and stakeholder groups may have different priorities for water and land use. To address these complexities, project leaders must navigate a range of laws and policies, funding models, cultures and histories, scientific disciplines, economic concerns, and planning issues.

HWI-supported projects are highly collaborative, requiring many communities, sectors, and teams to come together for a common purpose.

During the HWI intake process, proponents identified 228 unique project partners, which can include: non-governmental organizations, First Nations, municipal and regional governments, provincial and federal governments and agencies, industry and crown corporations, educational institutions, consultants, funders, and others. Some organizations, such as Environment and Climate Change Canada, were identified as a partner by several different project teams.

Indigenous Leadership and Partnerships

- 19 HWI projects are led by a First Nation or Indigenous-led organization (31%).
- 25 HWI projects led by non-Indigenous organizations have reported collaboration with an Indigenous partner, i.e., a First Nation or Indigenous-led organization (41%).

Our team is working to learn more about the nature of these relationships and partnerships. HWI aims to support respectful, meaningful, and authentic engagement with First Nations and Indigenous partners. By asking questions about how these partnerships are being created and supported, we hope to gain a better understanding of the quality and



PERSPECTIVE

“The project has found itself in a unique position with local landowners and stakeholder organizations. As many of the large farming and ranching properties are handed down through their families, younger farmers and ranchers are increasingly open to a new way of managing the land. The project has been warmly welcomed by this new blood and there appears to be a vigorous appetite to management towards sustainable outcomes where both nature (river health) and people co-benefit. This transition to younger landowners has quickly turned towards dialogue on how to manage river corridors so that ranchers and farmers have certainty not only for their crops, but also that their actions are leading towards a healthy riverscape, where their families can farm by day and fish by night.”

– Project Manager, Northwest Research and Monitoring Ltd.

long-term viability of these partnerships, rather than simply counting the number and types of partners included in a project.

In particular, we want to avoid misrepresenting or overstating partnerships between non-Indigenous project teams and First Nations or Indigenous-led organizations. This has been a pattern observed with a number of funding programs. Many Indigenous people have shared examples of last-minute requests for letters of support on projects they have not been involved in developing, nor fully understand the impact or benefit on their Nation. Without verification (by letter of support, follow up contact), non-Indigenous organizations may self-report partnerships with Indigenous peoples.

In final reporting, the HWI team will be asking project proponents to share more details about the types and levels of partnerships, such as:

- **Full partnership:** group or Nation is co-designing, co-leading, and co-implementing the project. This level of partnership requires a letter of support from Nation leadership attesting to their role.
- **Semi-partner:** group or Nation is one of many partners, and may be involved at key milestones, may derive benefits from the project and its outcomes, and is generally supportive but not involved in the day-to-day project operations. This level of partnership could be indicated by an email of support from a senior staff member, to reduce administrative burden on the Nation.
- **Project outcomes end user:** group or Nation will derive some benefit from the project outcomes, such as data or training. The Nation does not oppose the project, but does not have the interest or capacity for full or semi-partnership. This level of partnership can be indicated by an email from a staff member.



PERSPECTIVE

“Many of the Indigenous representatives who engaged with us expressed their concern about this short time frame and expressed their preference for longer-term engagement [in relation to the Wetlands Workforce project].”

– Project Lead, BC Wildlife Federation

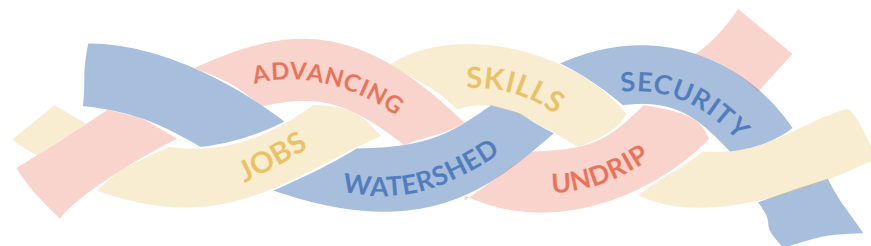


FINDINGS

HWI Project Benefits

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative is creating jobs and building skills, restoring BC's watersheds, supporting climate adaptation, and advancing progress on UNDRIP implementation.

In this section, we've summarized findings from intake documents and interim reports to demonstrate the many benefits unlocked by investments in watersheds.



467+ jobs created or supported with HWI funding.

9/10 Environmental Action Categories covered by HWI projects.

100% of projects support climate change adaptation.

19 projects are being managed by an Indigenous-led organization.

HWI is Creating Jobs and Building Skills

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative, part of the Province of BC’s economic response to COVID-19, was designed to create jobs and provide workers with training and opportunities to develop skills. Project proponents are collecting and sharing data on job creation and employment demographics, which are shared with the HWI team through interim and final reports.

Job Creation

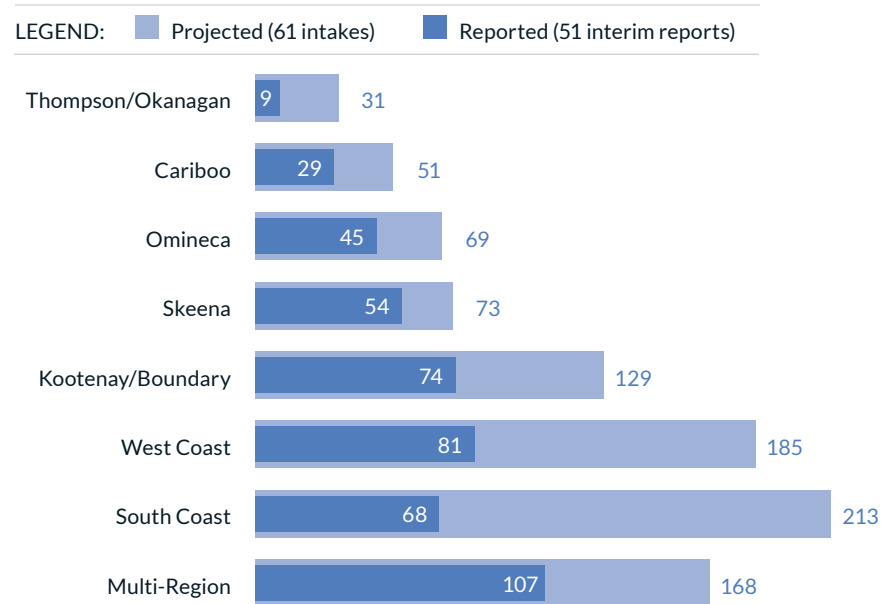
As of June, the HWI team has received 51 (of 61) interim reports, which show that at least 467 jobs have been created or supported with HWI funding, with another 320 jobs to be created or supported in the coming months, for a total of 787 jobs counted so far.

These numbers are an undercount and do not include jobs data from the 10 reports that have not been submitted, nor do they include jobs created or supported by other sources of funding.³

During the HWI intake process, proponents estimated that over 900 jobs would be supported through a combination of HWI funding and other sources of revenue.

Given that 10 interim reports are yet to be submitted and many organizations are still hiring workers, we’re pleased to see strong early numbers on jobs. The geographic spread of the jobs projected through work plans (intake, 61 projects) and reported as filled (interim reports, 51 projects) is shown in the chart on the right.

HWI / Progress on Job Creation



3. In addition to grants made through HWI, project teams reported an additional \$10M in funding from other sources in project budgets. This amount is likely an undercount, as some project teams focused their budgets on HWI-funded work only, and may not have counted in-kind contributions such as support from existing staff members or additional work funded by other sources.

Data from the 51 interim reports indicate that a significant portion of the 467 jobs created so far have been filled by people who identify as Indigenous (135), adults aged 30 or younger (174), and/or women (240). Statistically, these three groups were the most economically impacted by COVID-19, and the Province has identified job creation for these target groups as a key goal for HWI.

These job numbers, and the demographics they reflect, are a strong outcome – especially as proponents have reported that hiring can be challenging due to time constraints, team capacity, ongoing COVID-19 barriers, and the community impact of residential school findings.



PERSPECTIVE

“Because our program starts later (in April rather than December), we had some trouble with recruitment. We followed up with host Nations when we had trouble recruiting youth from their communities, and they reported having a lot more opportunities come their way than usual - likely due to HWI. This is a good problem to have! For us this simply meant recruiting Indigenous youth from outside territories.”

- Project Lead, Ducks Unlimited

PERSPECTIVE

We talk about restoration often, but we don't always have the resources to do the effectiveness monitoring needed to make this work more meaningful. Now accessing HWI, we have been able to hire and train up six Gitksan people, which has been such a great opportunity for knowledge exchange and capacity building. Six new staff for our small organization is a big undertaking, and while we are building capacity, we're also learning how to delegate better, and who we can lean on in the future so that this work can continue to expand.

- Project Lead, Gitksan Watershed Authorities

Our team is exploring the community and social impacts of these jobs, particularly in Indigenous and small communities, where economic opportunities can be especially valuable.

Through future evaluation work, we're hoping to learn more about the spinoff effects of HWI-supported jobs and training, and the impact they may have on community resilience, BC's economic recovery, and climate change preparedness. For example, a longer-term analysis of the per capita economic impacts of jobs held by Indigenous people, young adults, and women in urban and rural regions may reinforce the value of equity-based hiring in funding programs. Similarly, a research approach that uses a social return on investment framework may illustrate the ripple benefits of hiring within priority populations.

HWI BENEFITS

At this early stage, we don't have complete data on which sectors hires are coming from.

From project teams that have volunteered this information, we know that many of the people hired through HWI have been self-employed, students, or working in fields like agriculture, hospitality, and tourism.

HWI / Jobs Lost (Where HWI Hires Are Coming From)

 Self-employed	35	 Engineering	7
 Student	27	 Retail	5
 Agriculture	14	 Manufacturing	0
 Hospitality	10	 Other	37
 Tourism	9		



PERSPECTIVE

“Another accomplishment is that we have worked with Maaqutusiis Hahoulthee Stewardship Society and Ahousaht First Nation to support two full-time guardian positions for the year. We have received amazing feedback on this from the Nation and they recognize how rare it is to find funding that will support employment in this way. The HWI has provided an amazing opportunity for our coastal towns: we have been given a chance to offer meaningful employment to many people who otherwise would not have employment through a restoration-based economy.”

- Project Manager, Central Westcoast Forest Society

Skills and Training

At the interim report stage, project proponents were not required to answer specific questions on skills, training, or volunteer involvement. However, 15 teams shared information on the number of individuals that have received training.

From what was reported, we know that at least 200 new hires have received training on:

- Fish sampling and waterfowl identification
- Boat and truck operation
- Water quality and quantity monitoring and sampling
- Stream, wetland, and riparian restoration techniques
- Data management and analysis, quality control, and assurance
- Field safety (first aid, WHIMIS, swiftwater rescue)
- Indigenous salmon teachings and processing
- Use of traditional plants and medicine in restoration work
- Cultural safety, awareness, and humility

Additionally, many of these hires have completed courses or certifications, including:

- Environmental Technician Certificate
- Riparian Health Assessment, Wetland Restoration Certification
- Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate

It's important to remember that, once a worker is trained through an HWI project, that training stays with the worker, putting them in a stronger position to continue in a watershed career, or to apply their learning and skills to other projects in their community.



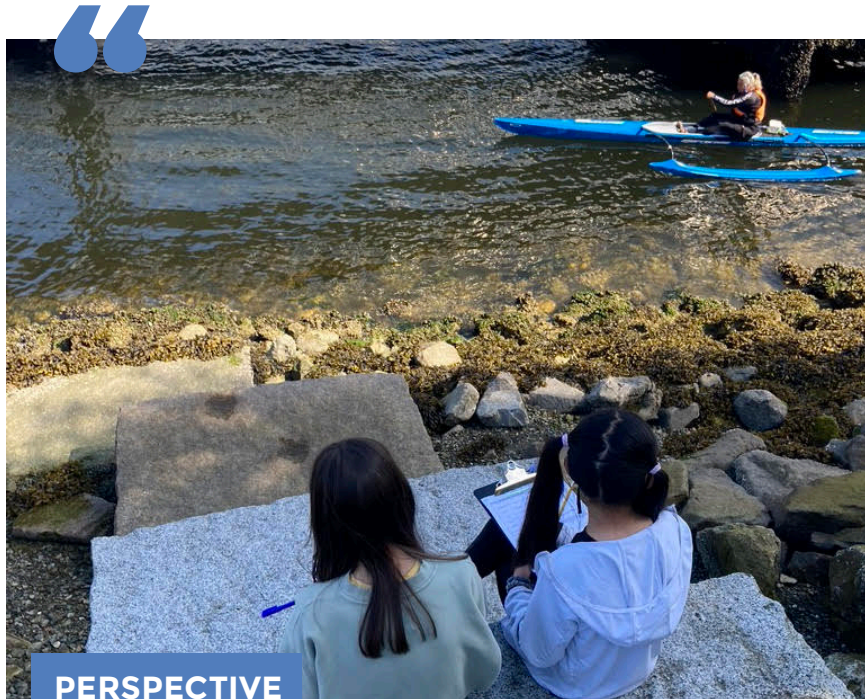
PERSPECTIVE

“I wanted to take this time to thank you for putting me in the environmental technician course. I had one of the greatest five weeks I've had in a very long time. I really enjoyed myself and learned a great deal. So once again thank you for taking a chance on me. Much love and respect, as I have a new outlook on my life ahead of me. Chuuch.”

– Student Hire, Central Westcoast Forest Society

In the News:

“Technical training certification opens doors for participants”
([Toronto Star](#), 9 July 2021.)



PERSPECTIVE

“While we were out sampling, we encountered students from a local school, False Creek Elementary School, who were out birdwatching. They asked what we were doing and became very interested in assisting us with sampling. On May 13, 40 students from grades 3 and 4 joined the Fraser Riverkeeper team at Olympic Village to collect water quality samples and learn how sewage and bacterial contamination threaten our beloved waterways. The students collected water samples with whirl paks, measured depth and turbidity with Secchi disks, and collected environmental data such as water colour, weather conditions, and wildlife. The next day, our Monitoring Coordinator, Imogene, sent them videos of how the samples were processed at the lab, as well as shared the results from their sampling.”
 - Project Lead, Fraser Riverkeeper Society

Volunteers and Students

At intake, proponents estimated that (a combined total of) 808 volunteers would be involved through the course of their projects. We expect to learn more about the number of volunteers engaged, and their impact on project outcomes, through proponents’ final reports.

Beyond skills development and training for workers and volunteers, HWI funding can also create opportunities for children and teenagers to learn more about watersheds.

From interim reporting, we know that at least 99 elementary and secondary students have participated in hands-on workshops on topics like water quality and quantity sampling, watershed health, and traditional teachings and cultural connections to the land.

 In the News:

“Summer water quality by Olympic Village fails in 33 per cent of samples: Report” ([Vancouver Sun](#), 7 June 2021.)

HWI is Restoring Watersheds

Funding delivered through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative is supporting community-driven watershed conservation and restoration projects across BC. As described in the Environmental Action Categories table (page 11), project teams are undertaking a broad range of activities.

Some highlights from project intake and interim reporting:

- 51 teams are incorporating **research and monitoring** in their projects. For example, the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance is training Indigenous crews on a range of hydrometric field methods and analysis – and the Fraser Riverkeeper Society is using HWI funding to expand their community-based water monitoring program through enhanced programming and outreach.
- 50 teams are prioritizing **training and education** of new staff and community members in their HWI-supported projects.
- 49 teams are **restoring or maintaining the quality of existing habitat**. For example, BCWF’s Wetlands Workforce crew members are thinning ingrowth in wetlands, removing invasive species, and re-introducing native plants to mitigate ecosystem stresses on project sites.
- 48 teams are working to raise **community and public awareness** of water security issues.
- 27 teams are **protecting specific species**. For example, Ahousaht Nation is creating and reinforcing spawning and riffle/pool habitat for chum, Coho, and cutthroat trout – and the BCWF is installing fencing to protect wetland and riparian areas from grazing cattle.



PERSPECTIVE

“The Urban Watershed Restoration crew has been collaborating with Wei Wai Kum First Nation and the Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries Society to transplant 1,650 Carex sedges within the Baikie Island Nature Preserve. This work is part of a larger effort to restore the estuary and build goose fencing enclosures. The population of Canada geese in the estuary present a problem, as they feed on native sedges, removing important rearing habitat for salmon. Our team is continuing to work with Wei Wai Kum First Nation to revegetate, remove invasive species, and install goose fencing enclosures, and is really looking forward to sharing learning opportunities with them.”

– Project Lead, Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust

- 22 teams are developing **watershed security plans** to establish the importance of freshwater management in their region or community. For example, the [West Kootenay EcoSociety](#) is combining natural asset management and nature-based planning approaches to inform future planning.
- 21 teams have put additional focus on the **economic, spiritual, and cultural value of watersheds**. For example, [Yucwmenlúcwu \(Caretakers of the Land\) LLP](#) is integrating Indigenous knowledge into the development of its programs, helping to center the intangible benefits of watershed security.

We expect to have additional quantitative data on the environmental benefits (e.g. invasive species, stream bank stabilization, habitat restoration, and target species) of HWI projects after teams submit their final reports in January. The HWI team will aggregate and share that data in a second public report.

PERSPECTIVE

“The people working with us are very happy to be able to work in a meaningful project working in ecological restoration projects and planting trees along the Slocan River and installing bird nesting boxes. It is very rewarding and we are always amazed to see some tree swallows moving into the nesting boxes minutes after the boxes are installed! Planting a large number of native trees along the bank of the river feels very good to us too. The trees will slow down erosion and provide wildlife habitat while growing and also when they eventually fall down on the land or in the river.”
- Project Lead, Slocan River Streamkeepers



In the News:

“9,000 willows planted along Bulkley River in Houston”
([BC Local News](#). 2 June 2021.)

HWI is Supporting Climate Adaptation

Healthy watersheds support climate resilience. Through jobs, training, and funding, HWI is helping to advance a climate-ready economy through projects that build climate-resilient infrastructure, restore critical habitat, and protect freshwater resources.

HWI-supported projects are helping communities to prepare for floods and droughts, restore habitat along rivers and streams, strengthen natural carbon sinks, protect salmon stocks, manage water flows, carry out water monitoring and data collection, and conduct watershed mapping and sustainability planning.

These projects are enhancing community, economic, and ecosystem resilience and provide helpful examples of strategies and approaches for implementing the Province’s Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy and Principles.



Province of BC / Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy Goals



R: In 2017, the Okanagan region experienced severe flooding, causing damage to homes, businesses, and ecosystems. Sylix territory. (Photo: REFBC staff)

At intake, proponents were asked to select one of nine climate change focus areas that best represents the primary focus of their project (see chart on page 12). The most common focus area is habitat restoration (24%), which speaks to the many projects conducting on-the-ground fieldwork through 2021, such as removing invasive species, stabilizing riparian areas, revitalizing salmon spawning grounds, and restoring wetlands.

The recent heat dome event in British Columbia demonstrated the urgent need to address habitat restoration and other climate change focus areas – especially relevant for project teams working in areas prone to climate-driven flooding.

For example, the Golden District Rod and Gun Club is working at the confluence of the Columbia and Blaeberry rivers to create wetlands and rehabilitate floodplains that were disturbed by industry and development.



Columbia & Blaeberry Rivers: Before flooding. Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Sinixt, and Blackfoot territory. (Photo: Golden District Rod and Gun Club)

Restoration work was underway until July's heat dome melted a nearby snowpack, triggering dramatic flooding of the work sites. When crews visited the site, they found that the flooded areas were those that were once part of the floodplain and are where they are creating wetlands. Luckily, the river flooding did some of the work for them, allowing them to now shift efforts to other aspects of the project.

Anecdotes such as this validate the value of investing in watershed rehabilitation as one way to insulate communities from the effects of climate change. What could have been a costly and devastating event was avoided by allowing the watershed to function as nature intended.



Flooding at the work site. Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Sinixt, and Blackfoot territory. (Photo: Golden District Rod and Gun Club)

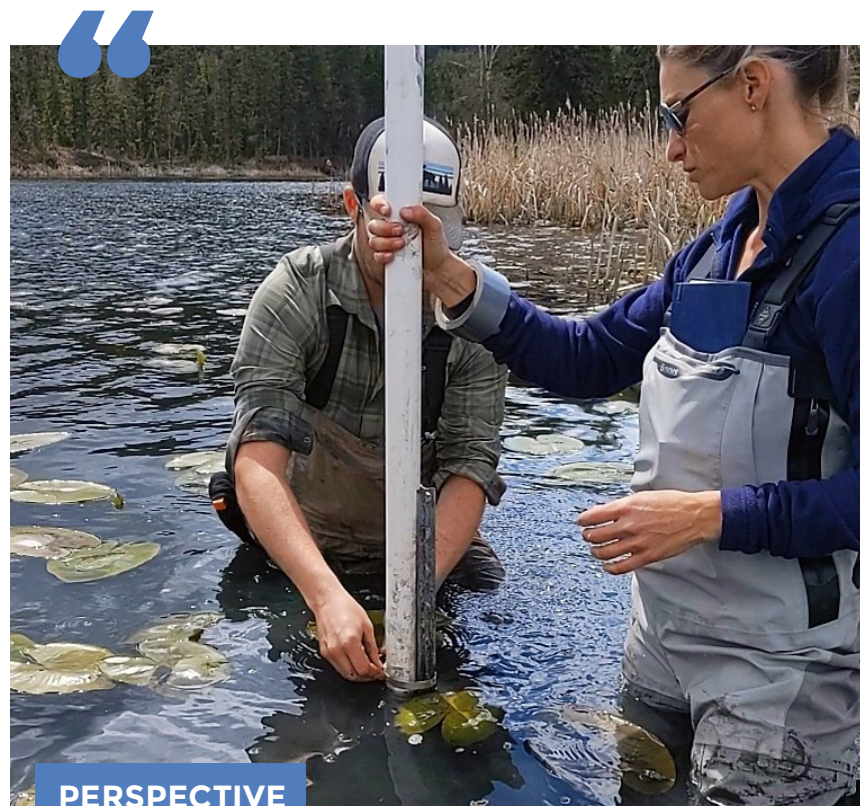
Another climate change focus area we'd like to highlight is monitoring, which strengthens common understanding of changes happening and creates a base of knowledge through data collection, sharing, and training.

More than a fifth of projects (21%) were categorized as focusing on monitoring, and our team was excited to see that some projects have already begun gathering available traditional knowledge from Indigenous sources, as well as using provincially-recommended fish and riparian monitoring protocols.

In the News:

“Elk River watershed monitoring program initiated”
([E-Know.ca](#), 29 July 2021.)

“\$1 million for water monitoring in Columbia Basin”
([Nelson Star](#), 17 March 2021.)



PERSPECTIVE

“Local engagement is a crucial part of this process, and will help define the final monitoring station suite that is implemented in each pilot sub-basin. This initiative will increase water awareness, local engagement, and climate resilience for residents across the Basin.”

- Kat Hartwig, Executive Director, Living Lakes Canada

HWI is Advancing Progress on UNDRIP

The majority of HWI-supported projects are restoring watershed damage from past or ongoing activities that will support healthier watersheds, drawing a strong link to the continued exercise of Indigenous rights.

As HWI staff members were reminded at the first Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle meeting, the health of water is linked to the exercise of Indigenous or Aboriginal rights and title. Whether it is salmon habitat restoration, improving water quality to support food security, or decommissioning historic dams and pulp mills to return a watershed to a more natural state, all of these efforts support the ongoing exercise of Indigenous fishing, hunting, gathering, and stewardship rights.

HWI funding is supporting 19 Indigenous-led projects, as well as 38 projects working with an Indigenous partner. Across all projects, at least 135 Indigenous people have been hired – representing 29% of all created jobs that have been reported to the HWI team.

In the News:

“Semiahmoo Bay shellfish harvest could be restored – SFN chief says” ([Peace Arch News](#), 13 May 2021.)

“One cool island. Freshwater is life: Reconciliation and restoring island wetlands” ([Gulf Islands Driftwood](#), 10 August 2021)



PERSPECTIVE

“Working with Stqeeeye’ Learning Society on the Healthy Watershed Initiative project has provided me with a deep understanding of what it means to be a steward in modern times. As an Indigenous woman I have an inherent obligation to take care of the land. This has been increasingly more difficult through generations because of extractive resource practices and politics around land rights. However, through meaningful initiatives such as the Healthy Watersheds, I have had the pleasure of tending to the land and not only learning from it but learning more about myself as an Indigenous land steward. Being a land steward is a practice that Indigenous peoples have upheld since time immemorial, I look forward to returning the land to its natural state so the ecosystem can thrive again. This job allows space, time and learning that must happen to heal the earth and ourselves. Huy steep q’a.”

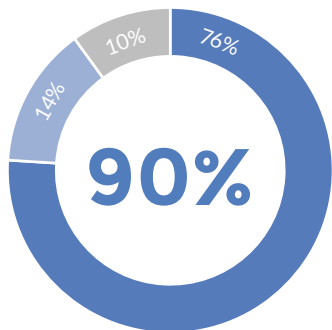
- Maiya Modeste, Stqeeeye’ Learning Society

The HWI interim report form included questions about progress on UNDRIP implementation. These questions were developed by HWI’s Senior Indigenous Advisor by cross-referencing the 46 articles of UNDRIP with the most common activities in HWI project workplans, with an aim to develop questions that produce quantifiable results. Proponents marked their progress on the following 10 areas of UNDRIP by indicating if activities were ‘In Progress’, ‘Planned’, or ‘Not Planned’. An ‘Other’ Category was also included.

Findings: UNDRIP Implementation

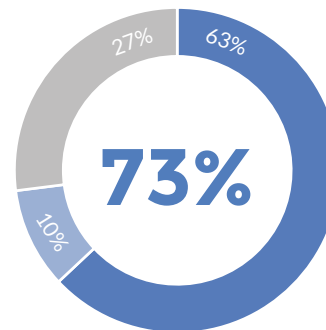
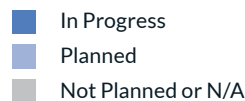
- 1. Project is Indigenous-led and remains so.**
About 31% of all projects are currently Indigenous-led. This category of project is likely the highest tier of UNDRIP implementation because a Nation itself, or an organization in service to a Nation, is leading, implementing, and benefitting from the project.
- 2. Restoration or watershed planning activities supporting exercise of Indigenous rights (e.g.: watershed health supports salmon habitat).**
The response on this question was clear: the overwhelming majority (90%) of HWI projects are conducting work that will support the exercise of Indigenous rights, with less than 10% identifying this as not applicable or not planned.

- 3. Incorporation of Indigenous knowledge into project planning.**
From available interim reports, we learned that 28 non-Indigenous-led projects and 17 Indigenous-led projects answered this question as Planned or In Progress. We plan to explore further how projects have worked to center Indigenous ways of knowing into HWI project planning, and the effects of this on project outcomes.
- 4. Existing partnership confirmed or strengthened with a host Nation.**
We are seeing that most proponents who submitted an interim report have either planned or are in the process of confirming existing Indigenous partnerships. This is a strong showing of projects/proponents with established partnerships working towards confirming and strengthening those relationships. As discussed previously, the fulsomeness of these partnerships will need to be explored further.
- 5. New partnership established with a host Nation.**
Twenty-eight projects have reported that they are in progress or are planning to establish new partnerships with Nations whose territory work is being done on. Our team will be working to better understand how partnerships are being established with First Nations.



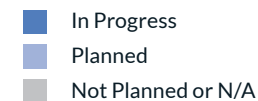
HWI / Exercise of Indigenous Rights

46 (out of 51) HWI projects include activities that support the exercise of Indigenous rights.



HWI / Indigenous Partnerships

Nearly 3 in 4 HWI project proponents are confirming or strengthening existing partnerships with an Indigenous Nation.



6. Communications and outreach to First Nation leadership.

The majority of proponents who submitted an interim report (94%) indicated that communication and outreach to leadership was either Planned or In Progress.

7. Communications and outreach to First Nation membership.

The majority (88%) of proponents who submitted an interim report indicated that communication and outreach to membership was either Planned or In Progress.

8. Indigenous ceremony held at project site(s).

Approximately half of projects indicated that ceremony would be included in their work. It may be that because of COVID restrictions, teams and nations alike were hesitant to commit to in-person ceremonies, site visits, or other in-person events. We will be able to share more information on how ceremony was included at final reporting.

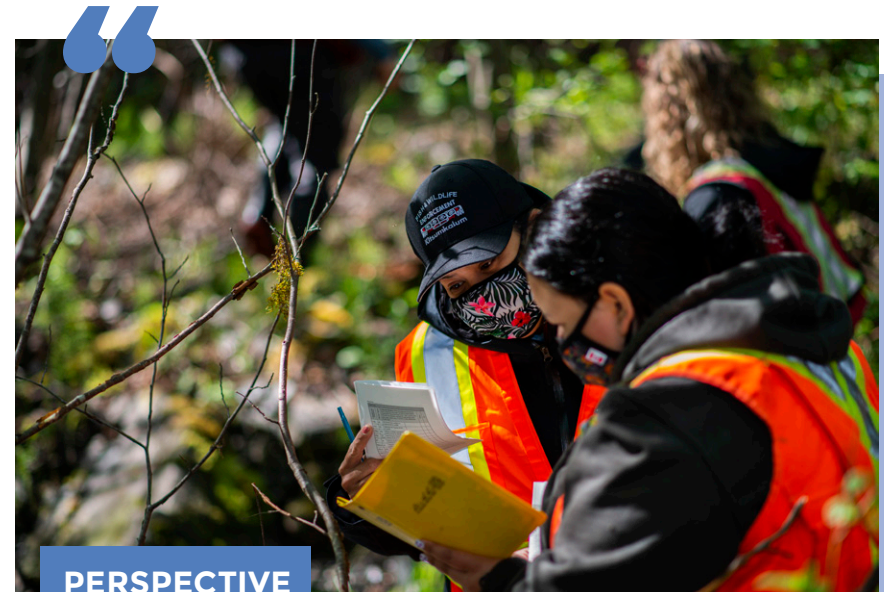
9. Job creation for Indigenous peoples.

As noted, 135 Indigenous people have been hired so far through HWI projects. This is a strong outcome considering all the challenges and time constraints for hiring, community responses and barriers from COVID-19 outbreaks, as well as the residential school findings which have directly impacted many HWI proponents and partners. Additional jobs are still to be created, and we will have a fuller picture at final reporting.

10. Training for Indigenous peoples.

Training for Indigenous peoples is ongoing; at the time we received interim reports, 27 proponents indicated that this was In Progress. These reports also included quotes directly from individuals who are receiving training in watershed restoration work; some of which are included in this report.

We are pleased to share these initial findings on UNDRIP implementation. Over the coming months, HWI staff members will continue to develop our approach and framework for evaluating UNDRIP implementation by seeking direction and advice from our Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle.



PERSPECTIVE

“We are most proud of the fact that there are two Kitsumkalum youth working on this project. For one of the people, this is her first job in the natural resources sector and she is finding the job very rewarding and fun. We are also very grateful for the connection we have made with Kitsumkalum and with Liitaalax Gibaaw (Sharon) in particular. It feels great to be genuinely welcomed to Kitsumkalum territory by the designated House representative in order to serve the wild salmon in restoring their habitat.”

- Project Lead, SkeenaWild Conservation Trust



INSIGHTS

Supporting Project Teams

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative is delivered by a small staff team that provides a range of supports to project proponents.

Our team has helped proponents work through tricky situations involving trans-boundary jurisdictions and has helped project teams navigate the Province's environmental permitting process. Staff members also provide support on grant administration and reporting, which helps reduce the administrative burden on project teams, freeing their capacity for work to protect and restore watersheds.

HWI program delivery supports eight jobs at the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC. In turn, these roles ensure an efficient grantmaking process, provide additional capacity for project teams, and support the implementation of UNDRIP.

- 8 Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle members, who provide advice and guidance.
- 8 staff members, from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and Watersheds BC, supporting HWI.
- + supports, including mapping, community engagement, recruitment, and admin help.
- + workshops, virtual coffee breaks, networking groups, and resources for project teams.

Learning Together

Our team is developing a shared learning agenda and project teams have contributed a number of ideas to support peer learning, including gathering to network and learn about other projects, hosting subject matter webinars, and training on respectful engagement with Indigenous communities.

Virtual Coffee Breaks

With so much interest in networking opportunities, HWI staff members began hosting biweekly virtual “coffee breaks” for project teams, starting in August.

These short drop-in sessions provide a low-barrier opportunity for project leads to connect with one another and learn about watershed security work happening across the province. For HWI, these coffee breaks also create an opportunity for our team members to explore and test ideas with proponents as we develop a series of learning opportunities for fall 2021.

R: George Heyman, MLA and Minister for Environment and Climate Change Strategy, joined HWI, Ducks Unlimited, and Tsawwassen First Nation staff members for a tour of the Alaksen National Wildlife Area, where Ducks Unlimited workers are conducting water monitoring and removing invasive plants. Tsawwassen, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territory.
(Photo: Taylor Roades)

Workshops and Events

In addition to the coffee breaks, the HWI Communications Manager has partnered with other watershed organizations to host two virtual workshops in August 2021: one on storytelling and media relations, and another on event planning and BC Rivers Day.

The HWI team is also planning a Learning Symposium, to be hosted in February 2022, as a way to celebrate project teams and offer a wider selection of in-person learning opportunities.

With a small number of staff members, the HWI team is working hard to support project teams, leverage support from other organizations, and provide high-quality opportunities for peer learning.



Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative aims to support good relations with First Nation communities, and to respond to the needs and priorities of Indigenous partners.

To guide us in this work, an **Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle (ILAC)** provides advice and wisdom to direct HWI staffers' approach on engagement, relationship building, and storytelling. To date, the eight members of ILAC have held two meetings (April, July) with HWI staff, with future work planned for the fall and winter.

The guidance of the ILAC, as well as the role of HWI's Senior Indigenous Advisor, are both necessary and meaningful in the approach HWI takes to working with all project partners.

As an example, a concerted focus on Indigenous voices and priorities helped inform HWI's offer for interim report extensions following the discovery of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School, as a way to respect Indigenous communities' need for time and space. Ten projects requested extensions.

With input from the ILAC, the HWI team is also developing a framework to evaluate progress on UNDRIP implementation, which we look forward to using in final reporting.

HWI / Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle Members



Mavis Underwood, Chair
Governor, Real Estate Foundation of BC
Member of Tsawout Nation



Aaron Sumexheltza
Practicing lawyer and (former) Councillor and
Chief of the Lower Nicola Indian Band



Deana Machin
(former) Strategic Development Manager
for the First Nations Fisheries Council of BC
Member of Syilx (Okanagan) Nation



Gordon Sterritt
Executive Director, Upper Fraser Fisheries
Conservation Alliance
Member of Gitksan Nation, Wilps Wii
Muuglilxw



Kris Archie
CEO, The Circle
Member of Ts'qescen First Nation



Lana Lowe
Director, Lands, Resources and Treaty Rights,
Fort Nelson First Nation



Lydia Hwitsum
Member of Cowichan Nation



Dr. Roger William
Team Coordinator, Dasiqox Nexwagwez'an
Member of Xeni Gwet'in (Tsilhqot'in) First
Nation

Related Work in the Watershed Sector

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative is one part of a larger constellation of organizations and groups working to address watershed health. Through partnerships and collaborations, our team is building and strengthening relationships with peers in the watershed sector and connecting project teams to partner resources and research.

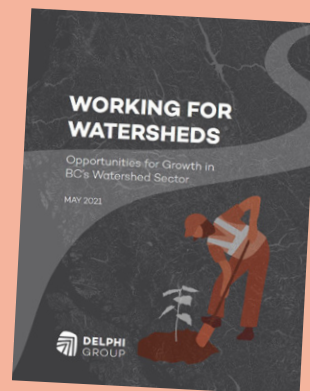
Encouragingly, we're seeing strong interest from a diverse range of people and organizations funding and work to support watershed restoration. Through the **BC Watershed Security Coalition**, conservation groups, educators, funders, and NGOs are coming together in support of a watershed security strategy and watershed security fund.

Economic Impact Study

A recent report, **Working for Watersheds**, highlights the economic impacts and benefits of the watershed sector, which directly employed 27,200 British Columbians in 2019. The economic impact study was published by the Delphi Group and commissioned by the BC Water Funders Collaborative, the **BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative**, and the **POLIS Water Sustainability Project**.

The study modelled the economic impact of a watershed security fund and found that a \$100 million/year investment over 10 years could create an estimated 13,000 more jobs and contribute \$1.3 billion more to the province's GDP by 2030.

The full report is available at delphi.ca/publication/working-for-watersheds.



Public Opinion Poll

A recent public opinion poll on water commissioned by REFBC, POLIS, and the BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative found that nearly seven in ten (69%) of BC residents want the province to “make major investments in watershed security and take strong action to protect fresh water.”

The survey, conducted by McAllister Opinion Research in May 2021, also found that BC residents place a high priority on “ensuring a clean, safe, and secure supply of drinking water” (73% say top or high priority), “doing what it takes to ensure the health and survival of nature, wildlife, and salmon” (61%), and “repairing damage to watersheds from mining and fracking operations” (60%).

Connecting Across Sectors

Other sectors are also interested in this work. For example, the BC Forest Practices Board reached out to the HWI team to learn more about the projects. They are interested in referencing HWI in an upcoming special report on watersheds and forestry to illustrate the kind of work needed to address legacy impacts of historic harvesting and road construction on land use and fresh water. The Board and HWI are mutually interested in learning more and advancing knowledge on the connection between watershed restoration, planning, and forestry practices.

In the News:

“B.C. gets a hefty economic bang for the bucks it spends on protecting watersheds” (**Vancouver Sun**, 21 July 2021.)



CONCLUSION

The Next Six Months

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative, which includes \$27 million in provincial funding for watershed conservation and restoration, is a major investment in the health of BC's freshwater ecosystems.

This is an exciting time for the watershed sector – the scale of this funding and the pace of project timelines are an opportunity to make a big impact for ecosystems, economies, and communities.

Within a few short months, project teams are off to an impressive start: hiring workers, providing training, forging partnerships, carrying out projects, and building community capacity to care for the freshwater ecosystems we all depend on.

These incredible projects are protecting salmon and wildlife habitat, helping communities adapt to climate change, gathering critical data on water quality and quantity, and supporting sustainable management and conservation practices.

This work has not been without challenges. Accelerated timelines have pushed teams to be nimble and creative with recruitment, work planning, and project delivery. Wildfires, droughts, floods, and heat events have reshaped landscapes and project plans. And, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike, the ongoing tragedy of grave site identification at residential schools across the country requires a respectful and patient approach as people grieve, heal, and learn more about this disturbing part of recent history.

Even with these challenges, project teams continue to inspire us with their strength and resilience, showing us what can be accomplished with adequate funding, close collaboration, and project supports.

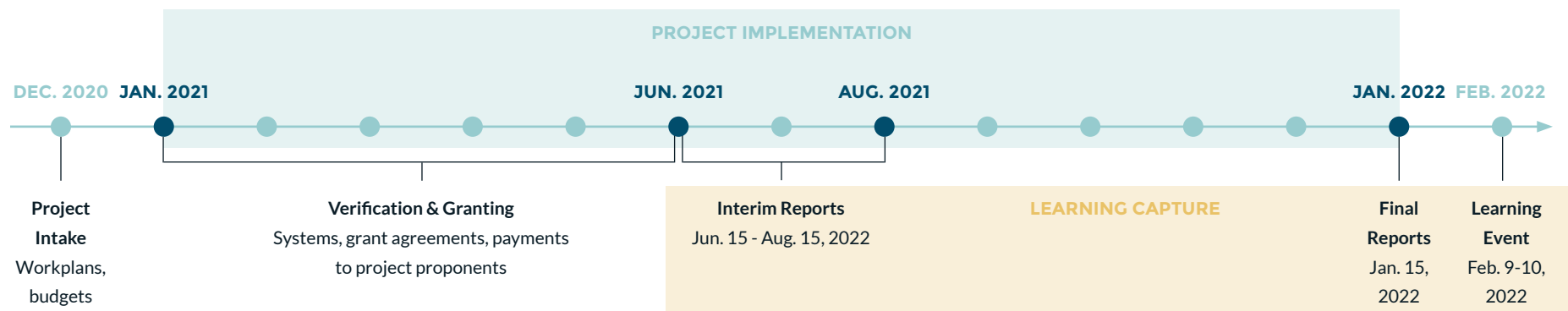
The scale of this funding and work of project teams are making a large and visible impact for ecosystems, economies, and communities. The early outcomes – jobs, UNDRIP implementation, climate adaptation, watershed restoration – speak to the opportunities and momentum that can be unlocked with dedicated resources and community readiness. In just six months, nearly 500 jobs have been created and millions of dollars invested in communities, organizations, and ecosystems.

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative is an example of a way governments and communities can work together for a future economy that's just, sustainable, and climate-ready.

Through 2021, project teams will continue work in their watersheds to restore habitat, improve access for salmon and other fish, gather data, prepare for climate impacts, and work with community partners to plan for the future. The HWI team will continue to offer learning and networking opportunities for project teams, collect and share project stories, and collect data and insights on the impact these projects are having.

After projects finish, proponents will submit final reports to the HWI team in January 2022. Our team will aggregate report data and share a second public report in the spring of 2022.

HWI / Program Timeline



1 / Methodology

Data Sources and Coding

This report was prepared by the Healthy Watersheds Initiative staff team, using a mix of qualitative and quantitative data gathered from project documentation, reports, and correspondence.

- Quantitative sources: proponent intake documents (project plans, budgets) and interim reports.
- Qualitative sources: proponent correspondence (emails), interviews, project descriptions, and interim reports.

Whenever possible, HWI team members gleaned additional quantitative insights from qualitative sources. For example, while the interim report didn't require details on training given to hires, some teams provided this information in open-ended questions, which the HWI team gathered and tabulated.

The HWI team also developed a qualitative coding framework based on key outcome areas identified in REFBC's agreement with the Province (job creation, skills and training, ecosystem services, etc.) When reviewing interim reports, HWI team members used codes to match open-ended responses to given categories and selected direct quotes to include in this report.

Limitations

When preparing this report, our team was able to draw on data from 51 (out of 61) interim reports, which is a sizeable, yet incomplete, sample. The remaining 10 projects were granted a reporting extension and data from their interim reports was unavailable at the time.

By design, the scope and depth of this report are broad, as our team continues to expand our understanding of the unique and innovative elements of the HWI program. However, as a result we will need to clarify what kinds of data to collect from project teams ahead of projects wrapping up.

Next Steps

When we receive final project reports in January 2022, we will expand on the findings from this interim report to build a more fulsome picture of the impact of HWI funding and projects on BC's watersheds.

The HWI team will use this data to release a second public report in the spring of 2022, with more detailed information on job creation and training, partnerships, UNDRIP implementation, climate adaptation, and restoration outcomes.

2 / Project List



FISH-FRIENDLY FLOWS

Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	Glen Urquhart Creek Riparian, Stream Course, and Wetland Habitat Restoration	\$50,000
District of Kent	Lower Agassiz Slough	\$700,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Alaksen National Wildlife Area Dike Breach and Salmon Monitoring Project	\$150,000
Gitksan Watershed Authorities	McCully Creek Restoration Initiative	\$77,000
Squamish River Watershed Society	Central Estuary Restoration Project to Restore Chinook Salmon Populations	\$250,000
Squamish River Watershed Society	Elaho River Chinook Salmon Restoration Project: Phase 3	\$100,000
Squamish River Watershed Society	Fish-Friendly Flows for the Cheakamus Generating Station	\$10,000



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

A Rocha Canada	Water Quality Restoration and Monitoring in Boundary Bay	\$76,000
BC Freshwater Legacy Initiative	Capacity Building for Water Leaders Through Learning and Development	\$453,000
Elk River Alliance	Elk River Watershed Community Based Water Monitoring	\$28,400
Fraser Riverkeeper Society	Vancouver Water Monitoring Program	\$27,000

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (cont.)

Islands Trust	The Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy	\$190,000
Living Lakes Canada	Community-Based Water Monitoring and Restoration in the Columbia Basin, Columbia Basin Water Hub	\$1,000,000
Northwest Research and Monitoring Ltd	Bulkley-Morice Water Sustainability Initiative	\$470,000
Okanagan Basin Water Board	Collaborative Source Water Protection in the Okanagan	\$50,000
School District 91 (Nechako Lakes)	Koh-Learning in our Watershed: Transforming Education; Connecting Students to Communities and Waterways	\$50,000
Scw'exmx Tribal Council	Monitoring of Agricultural Effluent Impact on Anadromous Fish in the Merritt Area	\$58,800
Skeena Knowledge Trust	Knowledge Management with Community-Based Watershed Organizations within the Skeena Watershed	\$260,399
SkeenaWild Conservation Trust	Riparian Restoration Surveys on Streams near Terrace	\$48,000
Sunshine Coast Regional District	Regional Watershed Management Planning	\$125,000
Town of Gibsons	Source to Sea Project and Methodology Integration – Phase II and III	\$85,000
West Kootenay Community EcoSociety	Nature-Based Planning and Natural Asset Analysis in Watersheds in Rural RDCK Area E Communities	\$450,000
Yucwmenúcwu (Caretakers of the Land) LLP	Salmon River Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping	\$161,000



INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Cowichan Tribes	Cowichan River and Koksilah River Sediment Removal	\$2,300,000
Cowichan Tribes	Koksilah Watershed Water Sustainability Planning	\$501,380
Kwakiutl First Nation	Giyuxw Lower River Channel Restoration and Fish Trap Maintenance Project	\$132,160
Kwakiutl First Nation	Kwakiutl Cluxewe River and Estuary Restoration	\$150,000
Kwakiutl First Nation	Quatse (Gwa'dzi) Estuary Restoration	\$100,000
Kwikwetlem First Nation	KFN Resource Stewardship Program	\$435,000
Lower Kootenay Band	Yaqaan Nukiy Wetlands Restoration Project	\$235,000
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative and Restoration Project	\$50,000
Stqee'ye' Learning Society	Xwaaqw'um Village Watershed Restoration	\$160,000
Tsilhqot'in National Government	Tsilhqot'in Nation-led Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program	\$350,000
Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance	First Nations-led Flows Management on the Endako River	\$688,000
Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance	First Nations-led Water Monitoring in the Nechako Watershed	\$250,000
Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance	Yinka Dene Water Law - Implementing Tools for Fish Habitat Recovery	\$300,000
Wet'suwet'en Treaty Office Society	Morice Sockeye Salmon Rebuilding Plan	\$206,755
World Wildlife Fund Canada	Indigenous-Led Watershed Restoration in the Upper Pitt Watershed	\$345,000


SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research and Development Corporation (ARDCorp)	Bertrand Creek Group Environmental Farm Plan - Enhancing Water Quality in Agriculture	\$69,828
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC	Farmland Advantage – Payment for Ecosystem Services	\$500,000
Rivershed Society of BC	Foodlands Corridor Restoration Pilot Project	\$600,000


WATERSHED RENEWAL

Ahousaht Nation	Anderson Creek Restoration	\$180,154
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District	Bridge Replacement on Log Train Trail at Platzer Creek	\$40,000
BC Wildlife Federation	Sun Creek Wetland Restoration, Canal Flats	\$162,000
BC Wildlife Federation	Wetlands Workforce	\$5,055,000
Central Westcoast Forest Society	Clayoquot Sound Watershed Recovery Initiative	\$1,000,000
City of Port Alberni	Port Alberni Wastewater Lagoon Restoration Project	\$195,000
City of Trail	Cambridge Creek and Violin Lake Dam Decommissioning and Ecosystem Restoration Project	\$561,000
Comox Valley Project Watershed Society	Kus Kus Sum Unpaving Paradise - Estuary Restoration	\$700,000
Discovery Coast Greenways Land Trust	Urban Watershed Protection and Restoration in Campbell River	\$378,000
Ducks Unlimited Canada	148 Mile Marshes Rebuild Project	\$215,700
Elk River Alliance	Elk Valley Stormwater Solutions and Water Awareness	\$19,197

WATERSHED RENEWAL (cont.)

Fraser Basin Council	Grassland Ecosystem Restoration	\$125,000
Fraser Basin Council	Horsefly River Riparian and Salmon Habitat Restoration	\$180,000
Fraser Basin Council	Watershed Restoration in the Nicola Watershed	\$100,000
Golden District Rod and Gun Club	Blaeberry-Columbia River Confluence Restoration	\$500,000
Living Lakes Canada	Mitigating the Hydrologic Vulnerability of the 26,000ha Columbia Wetlands	\$50,000
Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society	Nechako Valley Watershed Recovery – Primary Salmon Nursery Habitat	\$1,095,000
SkeenaWild Conservation Trust	Riparian Restoration Work on Willow Creek near Terrace	\$125,000
Slocan River Streamkeepers	Slocan Valley Riparian Restoration Project 2021	\$55,490
Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance	Chilako River Demonstration Project	\$700,000

3 / Photo Credits

Cover: (L-R)

- Young biologist. Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ territory. (Photo: Lora Tryon / Central Westcoast Forest Society)
- Water monitoring volunteer. Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam territory. (Photo: Fraser Riverkeeper Society)
- Invasive species removal by Ducks Unlimited Canada crew members. Tsawwassen, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh territory. (Photo: Taylor Roades)

Page 4: Columbia River biologists. Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, and Sinixt territory. (Photo: Georgia Peck / Living Lakes Canada)

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