

Ecosystem Enhancement Program

North Columbia Ecological Priorities

The following ecosystem priorities and project ideas were identified through a review of regional plans and research, and by seeking input from community groups, First Nations representatives, government agencies, and subject matter experts. Priorities and projects are listed in random order; no ranking is intended. Species and habitats are not limited to those listed below.

Wetland/Riparian		
Conservation, restoration and enhancement of wetlands and riparian areas		
<i>Priority Habitat</i>	<i>Priority Species</i>	<i>Priority Processes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low elevation historic wetlands • valley bottom cottonwood and coniferous riparian areas • high elevation wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • western Painted Turtle • western Toad • at risk wetland and migratory birds (Great Blue Heron, Western Screech-Owl, Western grebe, Bobolink, Common Nighthawk, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, Olive sided Flycatcher) • American beaver • culturally important plants • rare plants • macroinvertebrates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connectivity, • hydrologic function, • geomorphological function • productivity
Terrestrial		
Conservation and restoration of upland habitats that support species at risk and of conservation concern		
<i>Priority Habitat</i>	<i>Priority Species</i>	<i>Priority Processes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • old growth forests • dry interior forests • ungulate winter range • alpine meadows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mountain caribou • moose • mule deer • mountain goat • bats • grizzly bear • wolverine • whitebark pine • huckleberry • pollinators and other invertebrates • rare plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wildlife movement and migration • connectivity • food web interactions (predator-prey, seed dispersal, pollination) • natural fire regime

Aquatic		
Restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitat		
<i>Priority Habitat</i>	<i>Priority Species</i>	<i>Priority Processes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revelstoke Reservoir • Rivers and tributary streams spawning, rearing, overwintering areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • native fish (White Sturgeon, Burbot, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Kokanee, Rainbow Trout) • waterbirds (Harlequin Duck, Western Grebe, American Dipper, Cliff Swallow, Black Swift) • freshwater mussels • invertebrates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fish passage • connectivity • water temperature, water quality • geomorphological function (erosion, sedimentation, large woody debris, gravel recruitment)
Cultural		
Protection and enhancement of Indigenous cultural values		
<i>Priority Habitat</i>	<i>Priority Species</i>	<i>Priority Processes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cultural use areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • culturally significant species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional knowledge • traditional practices

North Columbia Emerging Issues

- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- Cumulative effects (dams, forestry, recreation, rural/urban development)
- Emergent diseases/pests (White nose syndrome, whirling disease, mountain pine beetle)
- Imminent species/habitat decline
- Fire suppression
- Recreation and access management