

## Press Releases

### Chilliwack volunteer group to reverse damages to salmon habitat from mudslides at donated conservancy property



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#### **VANCOUVER SALMON VOLUNTEER GROUPS RECEIVE \$112,000 IN GRANTS**

Chilliwack volunteer group to reverse damages to salmon habitat from mudslides at donated conservancy property

VANCOUVER – Fourteen volunteer groups in the Metro Vancouver area have received \$112,687 to support the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon populations and habitat in British Columbia. The grants were provided through the 2011 spring funding round of the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Community Salmon Program.

One group, the Chilliwack River Action Committee has received \$4,000 to clean-up and restore salmon habitat at a donated riverside property at Ryder Creek. The property is home to several species at risk and was donated to the Fraser Valley Conservancy for conservation purposes in perpetuity earlier this year. Two years ago mudslides made the property unlivable while plugging local salmon habitat with sediment. Native species including trees will be planted on the hillside to help stabilize the bank and prevent sediment from washing into the creek and choking eggs. Sediment prevents oxygen-rich water from flowing over eggs. The project will also remove invasive plant species that are crowding out native plants that support the aquatic insects that salmon feed on. Old sheds, fencing and a septic system will be removed as the site used to house a mobile home and other buildings.

"Volunteers are the unsung heroes of Pacific salmon sustainability," said Pacific Salmon Foundation president and CEO Dr. Brian Riddell. "Their impact on the environment can be seen throughout the province, from salmon hatcheries and stewardship centers to strategically placed rocks, trees and vegetation that protect salmon-bearing streams. These are all the result of dedicated volunteers working thousands of hours to ensure a strong future for Pacific salmon."

Projects funded through the Foundation's Community Salmon Program focus on monitoring and rehabilitation of salmon habitat and salmon stocks, education and community stewardship. This year's spring funding round granted \$345,434 to 43 projects across British Columbia.

The grants are made possible in part as a result of money raised at the annual Pacific Salmon Foundation Vancouver Gala Dinner and Auction. The next dinner will be held on May 2, 2012 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Major corporate support in greater Vancouver is provided by Port Metro Vancouver.

Since the Foundation's inception in 1989, the Community Salmon Program has awarded \$9 million to 1,229 projects. In the last five years alone, grants made by the Foundation have helped the volunteer community throughout B.C. to create positive results:

- Approximately 670,000 square metres of stream, lake and estuary habitat created or