



PACIFIC SALMON FOUNDATION

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NEWS RELEASE

* For Immediate Release *

Pacific Salmon Foundation Announces Over \$498,000 for Community Salmon Projects Throughout British Columbia

VANCOUVER, December 13, 2005 – Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) is pleased to announce that 92 salmon conservation projects in BC received grants worth \$498,444 for the 2005 year. The total value of the projects is close to \$3.9 million.

The Okanagan-Merritt region received \$14,250 in grants made possible through partnership funding from saltwater recreational anglers and commercial fishing operators through Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Salmon Conservation Stamp program, PSF fund-raising dinners and auctions, local fishing derbies, and private donations. These funds will allow salmon conservation groups from Westbank, Merritt, Lumby, and Kamloops to implement 4 conservation and education projects.

"PSF works in partnership with the community, government and industry to restore salmon habitat. Applicants must be supported by Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisors, and PSF is pleased to be part of such an integrated team," says Paul Kariya, Executive Director for the Foundation. "I extend my appreciation to the recipient organizations as they continue to do the front-line work of helping in the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon populations and their rivers."

The funding comes from PSF's Community Salmon Program (CSP), a program developed in 1989 and is designed to help locally-based volunteer community organizations undertake projects that lead to improved salmon habitat and increased awareness of issues facing Pacific salmon. To date, PSF has provided over \$284,000 in grants towards 35 projects in the Okanagan-Merritt region for a total project value of over 2.3 million.

The next submission deadline for proposals to the Community Salmon Program is February 15, 2006. A backgrounder listing successful projects is attached, and more information can be found at www.psf.ca.

Pacific Salmon Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization and a national leader in the conservation and recovery of Pacific salmon. Formed in 1987, PSF directs funding to grassroots, volunteer-driven projects specifically focused on the conservation

and of Pacific salmon. PSF has grown into the leading Canadian non-profit organization to forge partnerships with local communities, First Nations, all levels of government, industry, educational institutions, commercial and recreational fisheries, and non-profit organizations all working together to restore and enhance Pacific salmon.

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Backgrounder

Since 1989, PSF has granted nearly \$5.5 million for 674 community salmon projects for a total project value of over \$35 million. The Community Salmon Program aims to support community volunteer stewardship groups in BC and the Yukon through the funding of projects that contribute to the restoration of Pacific salmon populations and their habitat.

PSF strives to ensure all aspects relating to salmon survival are funded, including: habitat assessment, stock rehabilitation, habitat restoration, education and awareness, stock assessment, and community stewardship.

Applicants are evaluated by a CSP Project Selection Committee with representation from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the BC Ministry of Environment, BC Wildlife Federation, and Pacific Salmon Foundation. Our funding partners and others are invited to the project selection meetings to provide technical expertise.

Okanagan - Merritt - 2005 CSP Projects					
Organization	Location	Description of Project	Project Type	PSF Grant	Total Project Value
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Westbank	Signage and Brochures for Reintroduction of Sockeye	Education and Awareness	\$3,000	\$9,820
Nicola Watershed Community Round Table	Merritt	Coho Festival	Education and Awareness	\$1,800	\$8,600
Monashee Arts Council	Lumby	Lumby Weyerhaeuser Salmon Trail	Education and Awareness	\$6,500	\$29,402
Big Little Science Centre Society	Kamloops	Salmonids in the Classroom and Salt Water Tank Installation	Education and Awareness	\$2,950	\$8,092
			Total	\$14,250	\$55,914