

**Bridge Coastal Restoration Program:  
Puntledge River Watershed – Summary of Agency Priorities**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Agency</b>
<b>Fish</b>			
Limiting factor - Seals	<b>high</b>	The impact of predation by seals outweighs any other limiting factor in the watershed. An ongoing in-river cull of seals is required or alternative control measure. Further study to refine the estimates of mortality prior to conducting an annual cull.	DFO & MOE
	<b>high</b>	Technical assessment of sea-pen rearing as an alternate or concurrent strategy with the seal cull.	DFO & MOE
Summer Chinook Salmon		<b>target</b> escapement for summer chinook at 3500 spawners	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Projects (assessment, physical works, radio telemetry) aimed at improved access at Stoten Falls and Nibs Falls and expedite access to Comox Lake.	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Ongoing fish culture work at either Puntledge Hatchery or Rosewall Creek Hatchery or both.	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Studies to determine if there is any hybridization of the summer and fall runs or if the summer chinooks retain their genetic integrity.	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Feasibility assessment of a new pipeline constructed for the Comox Strathcona Regional District.	DFO
	<b>low</b>	Colder water downstream to the Puntledge by pipeline.	DFO
	<b>low</b>	Projects aimed at increasing spawning habitat.	DFO
Pink Salmon		<b>target</b> escapement for pink escapement targets of 50,000 spawners for the Puntledge mainstem and 85,000 for the Tsolem River	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Remediation of water quality issues (copper) as the in the Tsolem. Opportunities may exist for BCRP to participate as one of the partners with other organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, MOTH, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Living River, etc.	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Assessment of available habitat and feasibility studies for restoration in the Tsolem system.	DFO
	<b>high</b>	Increasing water flows in the Headquarters Creek at Wolfe Lake.	DFO
	<b>medium</b>	Restoration projects for pink salmon in the Tsolem.	DFO
	<b>medium</b>	Projects in the Puntledge River which provide opportunities for pink spawning in conjunction with other species use.	DFO
	<b>medium</b>	Restoration projects in the estuary	DFO
Steelhead – Puntledge River		<b>target</b> escapement for summer and winter steelhead at 325 adults	MOE

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	<b>high</b>	Projects (assessment, physical works, radio telemetry) aimed at improved access for summer steelhead at Stoten Falls and Nibs Falls and expedite access to Comox Lake.	MOE
	<b>low</b>	Further gravel placement	MOE
Steelhead – Tsolum River		<b>target</b> of 100-200 winter steelhead	MOE
	<b>High</b>	Feasibility assessments looking at activities such as bank stabilization, live stock fencing and instream complexing	MOE
	<b>low</b>	Fish culture projects.	MOE
Cutthroat Trout		<b>target</b> for sea run cutthroat at 100 – 300 adults	MOE
	<b>high</b> <b>high</b>	Feasibility assessment for habitat restoration projects in tributary streams to the Tsolum should be undertaken to identify opportunities for projects aimed at cutthroat habitat. Once feasibility has been addressed, restoration projects identified in Tsolum.	MOE
	<b>high</b>	Feasibility assessments for restoration projects in Morrison Creek	MOE
	<b>high</b>	Feasibility studies be undertaken in Browns and Cruickshank watersheds	MOE
Fish Passage	<b>high</b>	Review of issues associated with existing infrastructure (tailrace, diversion dam, Comox Dam) that may be interfering with upstream migration (namely the impoundment reach, Comox Lake and upper tributaries).	MOE & DFO
	<b>high</b>	Confirmation that adult steelhead can access the lake at low water (subject to appropriate flow conditions).	MOE & DFO
	<b>high</b>	Studies at the tailrace and the diversion dam and works done to resolve any outstanding issues	MOE
Coho Salmon	<b>low</b>		DFO
Fall Chinook	<b>low</b>		DFO
Sockeye Salmon	<b>low</b>		DFO
Chum Salmon	<b>low</b>		DFO
Dolly Varden	<b>low</b>	Restoration projects	MOE
Kokanee	<b>low</b>		MOE
Morrison Creek Lamprey	<b>low</b>	Restoration projects considering the potential impacts on this endangered species	MOE & DFO
<b>Wildlife</b>			
VI Marmot	<b>high</b>	Recovery habitat in the watershed. Recovery Team Activities. Target: restore VI Marmots to their former abundance and distribution in the watershed.	MOE CWS

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Roosevelt Elk	<b>high</b>	Species At Risk. Winter range and riparian habitats are critical. High potential for restoration and securement, especially in the Cruikshank River	MOE
Species At Risk in general (SAR)	<b>high</b>	Habitat restoration & securement. Inventory information.	MOE & CWS
Riparian Habitat	<b>high</b>	Conservation covenants and restoration of damaged sites	MOE
Wetlands	<b>high</b>	Conservation and restoration to more natural conditions. Long term conservation.	MOE & CWS
Garry Oak	<b>high</b>	Habitat restoration where Garry oak occurs. Recovery Team and Action Plan activities.	CWS MOE
Old-growth	<b>medium</b>	Silviculture treatment of 2 <sup>nd</sup> growth forests to speed up attainment of old growth forest attributes	MOE
Great Blue Heron	<b>medium</b>	Species at Risk. Nesting habitat (riparian) and foraging habitat restoration and securement potential	MOE CWS
Western Screech-Owl	<b>medium</b>	Riparian dependent Species at Risk, habitat restoration and securement potential.	MOE
Northern Goshawk	<b>low</b>	Species at Risk. Breeding/foraging habitat restoration potential best managed at landscape levels	MOE
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<b>low</b>	Breeding/foraging habitat restoration potential best managed at landscape levels	MOE
Band-tailed Pigeon	<b>low</b>	Species at Risk. Breeding/foraging habitat restoration potential best managed at landscape levels	MOE
Grouse species	<b>low</b>	High management interest but restoration potential low	MOE
Marbled Murrelet	<b>low</b>	Species at Risk. Recovery Team research activities	CWS & MOE
“Coastal” Vesper Sparrow	<b>low</b>	Species at Risk. Habitat restoration potential in the estuary area of the Puntledge	CWS
“Streaked” Horned Lark	<b>low</b>	Species at Risk. Habitat restoration potential in the estuary area of the Puntledge	CWS
Western Meadowlark	<b>low</b>	Habitat restoration potential in the estuary area of the Puntledge	CWS
American Dipper	<b>low</b>	A riverine breeding species dependent on water quality, river productivity and riparian conditions	CWS MOE
Belted Kingfisher	<b>low</b>	A riverine breeding species dependent on water quality, river productivity and riparian conditions	CWS MOE
Common Merganser	<b>low</b>	A riverine breeding species dependent on water quality, river productivity and riparian conditions	CWS MOE
Harlequin Duck	<b>low</b>	A riverine breeding species dependent on water quality, river productivity and riparian conditions	CWS