



The Fernie Rod and Gun Club (FRGC) is thrilled to announce that support for the Wigwam Flats Ecosystem Enhancement Project (WFEEP) funding for 2025-2029 has been approved by the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) and will commence this Spring. The project is a partnership between the FRGC, CBT, Yaq'it ʔa\*knuq'it 'it First Nation, as well as the Province of BC, Nature Trust of BC, Nature Conservancy of Canada and the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council.

The FRGC is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of shooting sports, archery, hunting, and fishing while encouraging a healthy and sustainable environment.

It is also the mission of the club to enhance and maintain an environment in which wildlife populations can thrive. The WFEEP is focused at restoring hundreds of hectares of land on the Wigwam Flats through slashing, spraying, and seeding over the next 5 yrs. The planting and re-establishing of native grasses will add food for ungulates, while the slashing will reduce tree density to improve sightlines when it comes to staying safe from predators.

Wildlife and habitat studies will monitor the project effectiveness, evaluating habitat quality and relative ungulate abundance. The main objective is to improve critical habitat for ungulate species (i.e. Elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, whitetail, moose) through improving the quantity and quality of forage and at the same time improving sightlines for predator avoidance.

The projected budget for the 5-year project is \$1,360,000 with the Columbia Basin Trust providing \$750,000. The FRGC has committed a minimum of \$25,000 toward the project and numerous other wildlife associations, businesses and individuals have committed support for the remaining funds.

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The Fernie Rod and Gun Club's WFEEP Committee has hired local employees from Biodiversity Pathways as the Project Manager for 2025. With your help, the committee's goals are to raise more than the minimum funds required for this project. Any additional funds over the yearly planned/budgeted work will be put directly towards additional groundwork (Spraying, Seeding, Slashing) on the Wigwam Flats. This project will make a significant impact on wildlife habitat, how amazing it would be to announce that the project exceeded all expectations and improved an additional 100-150 hectares due to the overwhelming support over the years.

Projects like these occur with the support of a wide set of great partnerships. We must all work together to make large impacts on the land. Communities and associations, the resource sector, Indigenous communities, hunters, fisherpersons, hikers, bikers, and environmentalists alike. It is time to band together to do our part for the environment.

In addition to funding support, the FRGC will again host an on-site slashing work party this spring on the Wigwam flats as part of the WFEEP. We invite all who are interested to support, across our communities and sectors. It's time to "Give Back to Wildlife".

We are also working with and involving a local elementary school on the WFEEP to help build twenty bird houses and a couple bat houses to be put up in the Wigwam Flats project area. The students will build the houses under supervision of FRGC volunteers and then be invited out on the "FRGC Slashing Day" to put up the bird houses and understand the impact they had on the local bird population and the environment.

In summary, we are excited to work with our partners to give back to the land and wildlife by addressing what has been changing due to human activities and changing climate. We have a chance to improve this special place for future generations.

If you would like to support the Club's largest Wildlife Project ever to happen in the Elk Valley, please contact Kevin at [president@ferniergc.com](mailto:president@ferniergc.com) for more information.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING, checks can be made out to the Fernie Rod and Gun Club's Wigwam Flats Ecosystem Enhancement Project, or E-transfers are also available.

All partners and project donators will be acknowledged on all news releases, FRGC Website, Social media forums, Kiosk displays at the Wigwam site (Elko and Lodgepole areas) and at the FRGC range.

Thank You

Yours in Conservation

Fernie Rod and Gun Club WFEEP Committee

