

## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

### On their way

- **Whirling disease** – a parasite that causes deformities to young native trout (present in Washington, Idaho & Montana)
- **New Zealand mudsnails** – consume aquatic vegetation that immature trout and other species depend on (present in Washington, Idaho & Montana)
- **Zebra mussels** – voracious filter feeders that can deplete the availability of microscopic organisms that other species depend on (present in eastern North America)
- **Spiny water fleas** – predatory and consume many types of native zooplankton that occur within a lake (present in the Great Lakes area)

Anglers returning to or visiting from outside the province may have boating or fishing gear which has been exposed to alien diseases, parasites or molluscs. If this is a possibility, please take precautions to thoroughly cleanse and sterilize your gear as described above.



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

The Province is committed to protecting B.C.'s native fish and their habitats from aquatic alien invaders. In addition, the Freshwater Fisheries Society of B.C. (FFSBC) and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) have taken the lead in raising awareness and preventing the introduction and spread of alien species in B.C. waters.



Bullfrogs

W. Stephen Price

## B.C.'S LIVING RIVERS TRUST FUND

The Living Rivers Trust Fund (LRTF) was established by the Province of British Columbia in 2002 with the vision of creating a legacy for the province founded on "healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities."

In May, 2006, Premier Gordon Campbell and Environment Minister Barry Penner announced a tripling of the Fund to a total of \$21M. The capital in the fund can be fully expended by the end of 2009. The Vancouver Foundation administers the fund in co-operation with an Advisory Group appointed by the Province.

### There are five principal objectives for the LRTF:

- Improve the science basis for watershed protection and restoration;
- Increase public understanding and commitment to watershed protection and restoration, and the conservation and sustainable use of water;
- Strengthen partnerships and identify priorities by supporting councils, cooperative mechanisms and planning frameworks;
- Enhance effectiveness of community groups and councils by developing science capacity and decision support tools; and
- Support specific watershed management and restoration activities.

In April, 2006, the Advisory Group approved two business plans for programs to be delivered with LRTF funding support to the end of 2009. A Fraser Basin program was approved at \$2.5M/year for four years

with a target of organizing and engaging communities and partners throughout the Fraser to protect salmonid population diversity and increase abundance by 2010.

A Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island program was approved at \$1.5M/year for four years, including \$100,000/year to the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Community Salmon Program. The primary objective for Georgia Basin/Vancouver Island is to restore watershed ecological processes for long term sustainability. This will help recover salmon, steelhead and resident salmonid stocks and maintain and diversify fishing opportunities for all sectors.



Outlet weir and fishway at Cameron Lake, Vancouver Island to improve summer flows of Little Qualicum River.

James Craig