



RESTORATION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2025

The Restoration Department and Committee has Reviewed and implemented over \$20 million worth of projects, including over \$3 million in external funding and a \$2 million restoration training program for community. The Restoration Committee are meeting monthly to review and approve projects, whom are made up of the 5 family members.

Currently have 12 full-time staff in the Restoration Department, eight whom are BRFN members. Darian Weber is back from maternity leave. All staff at the moment are working on Work Hub, online for health and safety programs. Dolly is currently assisting in Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Jerri-Lynn will be continuing to work on the Monthly Restoration Newsletter and it will be a joint Newsletter with the Restoration Society going forward. Project Updates will be in the next monthly newsletter.

Leroy and Allan are looking into more train to trainer courses so we can train members more frequently, keep an eye out for more information and posters. Look out for the Training Extravaganza 2025 where training will take place throughout the year and trainings will include; PAL, Snow Mobile, Winter First Aid, Basic Chain Saw and Bear Monitor, there will be more information coming out.

There will be Implementation Sessions week of February 3rd-7th hosted by Firelight in Community. The Restoration Society is hosting an Elders Sharing Circle, February 4th in community & 5th at Home2 Suites in town where they are looking for Elder Guidance on 10 Year Project Framework.

THE RESTORATION DEPARTMENT

BRFN Restoration staff identify, implement, and monitor culturally appropriate ecological restoration throughout the territory. Our work is guided by a community-driven restoration framework using a two-eyed seeing approach. By weaving together Indigenous wisdom and settler science, we build community capacity and increase ecosystem recovery to ultimately restore members' meaningful practice of treaty rights. Our approach is guided by the principle of reciprocal restoration to also restore traditional relationships with the land, and we work closely with the Cultural and Regulatory Divisions within the Land and Resources department.

Blueberry River Restoration Society

Healing Land, Empowering People

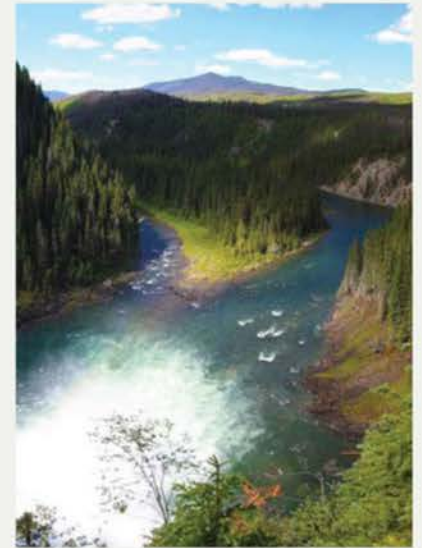
In a unique partnership between Blueberry River First Nations and the Province of British Columbia, the Society is dedicated to restoring the land, water, and ecosystems that sustain Blueberry River First Nations and their Treaty 8 Rights.

These rights are deeply connected to the health of the environment, reflecting generations of cultural and ecological stewardship.

Born out of the Blueberry River First Nations Implementation Agreement, which followed the landmark 2021 BC Supreme Court decision on

cumulative impacts, the Blueberry River Restoration Society (the Society) is a space for building collaborative, respectful relationships. Together, the Society works to restore the land's ecological integrity while upholding the Treaty Rights of Blueberry River First Nations.

The Society's mandate is to heal the land by fostering the connectivity of restored ecosystems, re-establishing natural biodiversity, and ensuring the long-term health of these vital landscapes. But the work doesn't stop at ecology—cultural revitalization is at the heart of everything the Society does. They believe that the restoration of ecosystems and the renewal of culture are interconnected, each strengthening the other to create lasting, reciprocal change.



Check out the Society's website for their mission, vision, and values.

You can also find information on projects they are working on, who they are, and future opportunities.

brrsociety.org



The Restoration Department is looking to hire

- Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Finance Assistant

Contact Dolly Apsassin for more information

WELCOME BACK!

Darian

I have returned to my previous position as Restoration Project Officer in the Restoration Department after 1 year of maternity leave. I come back to the workforce with a few extra grey hairs, a greater understanding of what it means to be tired, but overall very happy. I can be reached at my previous email and cellphone numbers [dweber@blueberryfn.ca & 250-224-9431].

Please text your name to my cellphone, I no longer have any phone contacts! I'm excited to reconnect with everyone and dive back into our projects. See you all soon!
Darian Weber



The BRFN Plant Book Language Workshop

February 5, 2025
BRFN Community Hall
Lunch at 12pm
Workshop 1-3pm

This event aims to gather Beaver and Cree translations, along with traditional knowledge about local plants.

We are creating a community plant book, ensuring this valuable knowledge is passed on to future generations!

For Elders, Trappers and Language
Knowledge Holders
Ages 55+

Plant Bingo
and
Door Prizes

There will be an event in the future to engage with youth and all community members



Eco-Web BRFN Co-op student summary

Eco-Web Ecological Consulting Ltd. (Eco-Web) and Petronas Energy Canada Ltd. (Petronas), created an opportunity for a Blueberry River First Nation (BRFN) member to work with Eco-Web as an environmental field technician for a Co-Op term during the summer and fall of 2024

Petronas has been working with BRFN to build capacity in the community around ecological restoration. Petronas conducts a yearly monitoring and maintenance (M&M) program on their restoration sites, as well as their ongoing restoration projects.

The Co-Op position provided training for all aspects of these projects, from job preparation, field logistics, implementation of health and safety procedures, execution of the project, technical and analytical tasks, and post-field data management, the Co-op Program provided a holistic training experience.

The Co-op Program created a space to foster 'Two Eyed Seeing', enabling an exchange of insights between Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge and Western science. Upon completion of the Co-op Program, the Petronas and Eco-Web teams provided resources and support to the Co-Op student to pursue further education and training in restoration, to help expand their career opportunities as an Environmental Field Technician.

Prepared By: Shellie English,
Environmental Advisor



Young cinnamon bear travelling through site

Petronas in partnership with BRFN Updates



Cow moose and calf trotting through site

A Summary of Camera findings Summer and Fall 2024.

As a part of the capacity building project, two members of the BRFN, Bryan Pyle, an elder, and Randy Yahey, an active trapper joined Eco-Web's Tara Mackey and Mackenzie Askin through Goldenbase in servicing the following sites from November 27-28, 2024.

During the two days of servicing the game cameras, Bryan and Randy shared with us many values, concerns, and solutions that centered around restoration and reclamation. Some of these have been previously mentioned in community consultations and are being accounted for in restoration planning. The following are new recommendations brought up in our conversations:

Checking the occupancy of log piles before distributing wood for restoration. We saw evidence of snowshoe hare and pine marten utilizing the log piles and there is a concern of disturbing/injuring hibernating black bears.

Consulting FN/TEK on the placement of wildlife habitat features

Sampling water before deciding to keep a man-made wetland feature on site as there is a perception that this water is likely contaminated.

Favoring deciduous live transplants. The pine and spruce are showing high mortality rates. Live deciduous transplants will establish a LOS buffer quicker while also being desired by ungulates.

Prepared by: Mackenzie Askin,
Eco-Web Ecological Consulting Ltd.

How Does the Moon Help Plants?



The moon has fascinated humans for centuries, and its influence extends beyond tides and folklore. While it may not directly nurture plants like sunlight does, the moon has subtle effects on plant growth and behavior. Let's explore how this celestial body plays a role in the life of plants.

Lunar Influence on Plant Growth

Gravitational Pull and Water

One of the key ways the moon affects plants is through its gravitational pull, which influences Earth's tides. Although this effect is more noticeable in large bodies of water, it also impacts the moisture levels in the soil:

- **Soil Moisture:** During a full moon and new moon, higher gravitational forces can lead to increased soil moisture. This can potentially enhance seed germination and root development as plants often require adequate moisture levels to thrive.

Light from the Moon

While the moon's light is about 1/400,000th the brightness of the sun, it still plays a role in plant growth:

- **Nocturnal Light Exposure:** The full moon provides additional light, which can affect plants' circadian rhythms and growth patterns. Although minimal, this light can influence flowering and the timing of certain plant activities.

Moon Phases and Gardening Practices

For centuries, gardeners have relied on the moon's phases to guide planting and harvesting. This practice, known as lunar gardening, is based on the belief that different phases of the moon are more favorable for specific gardening tasks:

- **New Moon to First Quarter (Waxing Moon):** This phase is believed to be optimal for planting above-ground crops, such as leafy greens and annual flowers, as the increasing moonlight is thought to encourage upward growth.
- **Full Moon to Last Quarter (Waning Moon):** During this phase, gardeners often focus on planting root crops, such as carrots and potatoes, as well as perennials. The decreasing moonlight is believed to promote root development.

In summary, while the moon's influence on plants is subtle, it is an intriguing aspect of gardening and plant science. Whether through gravitational effects or traditional gardening practices, the moon holds a captivating place in the natural world.

The alarming rate of deforestation, with the planet losing 10 million hectares of forests annually, poses significant threats not only to biodiversity but also to human health and well-being. Forests play a crucial role in maintaining healthy ecosystems by acting as natural barriers against the spread of diseases. The rich biological diversity within these ecosystems creates a complex web that makes it difficult for pathogens to take hold and spread quickly. However, as deforestation continues, we reduce these natural defenses, increasing our vulnerability to diseases. Moreover, the loss of forests contributes to the endangerment of species, with estimates suggesting that around one million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction. This biodiversity loss not only diminishes the resilience of ecosystems but also threatens the ecological balance, which is essential for the sustainability of life on Earth. Urgent action is needed to protect and restore forests to preserve biodiversity and ensure a healthier future for all.

"Climate Change, if unchecked, is an urgent threat to health, food, supplies, bioiversity and livelihoods across the globe"

John F. Kerry

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