



CNC headlines in the media

CNC staff and students volunteer at Sturgeon Conservation Centre

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Posted by partykam2 (<http://blogs.cnc.bc.ca/media/author/partykam2/>)



(<http://blogs.cnc.bc.ca/media/files/2015/12/Megan-Spooner-NRET-Student-and-Mike-Manky-Conservation-Centre-Staff-Copy.jpg>)

Pictured: Megan Spooner (NRET student) and Mike Manky (Conservation Centre Staff)

A number of students and two instructors from CNC's Natural Resources and Environmental Technology (NRET) program volunteered at the Nechako White Sturgeon Conservation Centre in Vanderhoof recently to help tag juvenile sturgeon for release into the Nechako River in the spring of 2016.

According to the BC Conservation Data Centre and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), the Nechako White Sturgeon are a critically imperiled, endangered species. The electronic Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, which the students inserted under the skin of the fish (like a microchip for pets), assign a unique ID number to each fish and help conservationists monitor them over time.

"Working with white sturgeon is like working with dinosaurs," said Andrea Erwin, a CNC NRET Instructor. "These fish have been around, with very little change as a species, for millions of years. Restoration of the health of the Nechako Watershed is imperative to save this incredible but critically imperiled species."

Erwin is working with the Nechako White Sturgeon Community Working Group and the Nechako Watershed Roundtable to create more opportunities for students to get involved and gain experience. A goal of the working group is to create outreach and educational opportunities. Together, they hope to foster a relationship beneficial to both groups by providing volunteer and networking opportunities and possibly paid summer student positions in the future.

Detailed information about the conservation of the Nechako White sturgeon can be found at:
<http://www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org/> (<http://www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org/>)