



**KTUNAXA
NATION**

Ktunaxa Nation Council
7825 Mission Road
Cranbrook, BC V1C 7E5
tel: 250-489-2464
fax: 250-489-2438

visit us at:
www.ktunaxa.org

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Ktunaxa Nation Participating in White Sturgeon Conservation Actions in Upper Columbia

Cranbrook/?a-kiskaq#i?it – Starting the week of September 18, 2017, The Ktunaxa Nation Council is joining its partners from the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (UCWSRI) to collaborate in a Species At Risk Act permitted effort to scientifically sample and remove of a limited number of specific Sturgeon from the Columbia River, from the US-Canada border, upstream to the Hugh Keenleyside Dam.

“The recovery of wiyax, or the White Sturgeon in the Upper Columbia is of vital importance to the Ktunaxa,” said Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Council Chair. “Despite the cultural and historical significance of wiyax to the Ktunaxa Nation, we issued a self-imposed moratorium on harvesting Sturgeon that has been in place for many years. We are now at a place where the long-term survival of all wiyax populations in our territory is threatened and we must act to ensure recovery.”

“The Ktunaxa Nation Council recognizes that Upper Columbia White Sturgeon remain endangered and are committed to continue working with our partners in the UCWSRI to recover the population,” said Dr. Will Warnock, Ktunaxa Nation Council Senior Aquatic Biologist. “Conservation aquaculture has always been guided by the best available scientific information, and has ensured the population will not be extirpated in any of our lifetimes. Although early efforts from this program may now require a bit of a course correction, this must be done in a controlled, careful manner to achieve recovery goals and collect necessary scientific information. This can also be done in a way that provides opportunities for the Nation to revitalize its traditional practices and reconnect with White Sturgeon while we work toward recovery.”

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For Further Information Contact:

Dr. Will Warnock
Senior Aquatic Biologist
Ktunaxa Nation Council
wwarnock@ccrirc.org

Jesse Nicholas
Communications Manager
Ktunaxa Nation Council
JNicholas@ktunaxa.org

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