



# Western Painted Turtles

- They are the only native freshwater turtle still in BC (the western pond turtle has not been seen in BC since the 1960s)
- Habitat Loss and competition with the non-native Red-Eared Slider has drastically reduced the population
- The Coastal Painted Turtle Project started in 2008 with the main goal of assessing the turtle population, addressing threats and coming up with a long term plan for recovery
- A lot of effort is focused on monitoring the nesting season and rearing the young in a monitored environment, as this is when the turtles are most vulnerable
- To this day more than 400 turtles have been released into regional parks

## LifeCycle

- Courtship/mating begins almost as soon as the turtles become active in the Spring and continue through late Summer/early Fall.
- Female turtles nest from late May-June.
- To nest, females will dig a flask shaped hole within 200 m of water in open soil. The nest will be anywhere from 10-20 cm deep.
- The eggs will incubate over the summer (average 76 days) and hatch in the fall.
- Following hatching the turtles will stay within the shallow nest until the following spring.
- During the winter months, adult Western Painted Turtles become dormant on the muddy substrate of ponds or seek muskrat burrows.

