

**Wells Gray Provincial Park Trip June 11-12, 2022**

**SD 73 International Student Program**





Over thirty students and three chaperones left Kamloops at 8:30 and drove to Clearwater. Here, we purchased food that we would need for the day and then drove the 25 minutes north to the TRU Wells Gray Education and Research Station. The plan was to just drop off our gear there and then head out for a day full of activities. Upon arrival, we discovered this Black Bear feeding on plants and grass right behind the building that we were putting our gear into. A very good start! Everyone was able to have excellent views of this beautiful bear. After dropping off most of our things we drove to the West Lake Loop Trail and did this 4.2km hike, stopping at many different points, and did some fishing in West Lake.



Clockwise from top left: Bailey's Chute at full snow melt, a cool-looking moth, watching the bear from inside the TRU Research Station, part of the group along the trail, the traditional sign photo.

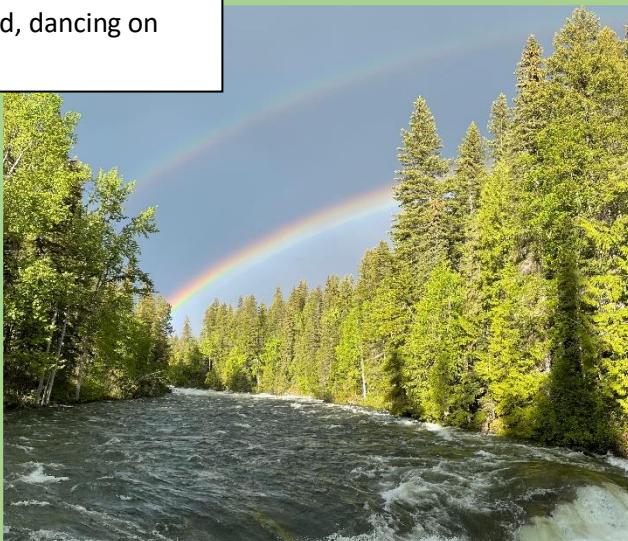




On the drive back from the hike, a rock was kicked up from the back tires of the bus and hit the fuel filter, cracking it. With the loss of fuel pressure, the bus was unable to run. We tried fixing it but did not have the right materials to do so. Thankfully we had a staff vehicle along so we could drive to the nearest telephone and call for another bus. Some students stayed entertained by forming a group dance on the road. In the end, the delay was just over 2 hours which cancelled our dusk bear drive and making us late for supper in Clearwater. We then drove back to Edgewood Blue, a large piece of property owned by Trevor Goward. Trevor is a life-long naturalist and renowned lichenologist who, to increase biodiversity, has transformed a piece of land into a rich area for all things wild. He led us on some short walks around the property pointing out various things and offering words of wisdom. This finished with a Q+A around a campfire area. After dark, we headed back across the road to the TRU Research station where the 5 Rainbow Trout were cooked over the fire, marshmallows were roasted, and songs were sung with the help of a guitar. Sleep came easy....



Clockwise from top left: False Solomon's Seal (plant), a leaking fuel filter, a double rainbow promising better times ahead, at Edgewood Blue with Trevor Goward, dancing on the road while our bus was broken down.





The next day we woke up and cleaned up everything by 9:30 am and put all of our gear into one of the cabins. We then drove to Clearwater for breakfast and lunch supplies. After this we stopped at Spahats Falls for around 30 minutes. We then headed towards Green Mountain Lookout and stopped to watch 2 adult Black Bears roadside followed by a 1 year old bear eating dandelions a little further on. After Green Mountain lookout we went to Helmcken Falls and then stopped at Dawson Falls on the way back. Our last stop was back at the TRU Education and Research Station where we loaded up all of our gear and then headed back to Kamloops. It's roughly a 1.5 hour drive from Clearwater to Kamloops.





## **My Favourite Moment:**

Kaito: The camp fire. The fish was delicious and singing songs with everyone was lot of fun.

Tim: My favorite moment was when we all were sitting together at the fireplace eating fish, marshmallows, talking, singing together.

Luisa: The whole trip was awesome! I really enjoyed the campfire with the guitar last night.

Lea: The campfire Saturday night.

Eva: When we danced in the rain. It wasn't supposed to happen, but it was really fun and I love when we saw bears.

Adrien: My favorite and most unexpected moment was when we saw the bear the first day we arrived. I had never seen a bear in the wild so close to us in my whole life. We have been lucky to see him without making him run away.

Julius: Spending the night together with all the people.

Ilja: The huge waterfall we saw at the end of the trip (Helmcken falls). The power of the water was just impressive and the fog that rose from the water after it hit the river again looked just beautiful.

Jack: Seeing the bear right beside where we were going to stay.

Chiara: The campfire eating marshmallows, fish and singing, but also when we were fishing.

Linda: The campfire and the hikes in the nature.

Aurora: The campfire eating the fish Gloria and Guglielmo got.

Chisato: I was glad to see the rainbow, it was so beautiful.

Soizic: My favourite moment from the trip was definitely when we saw the bear when we arrived. It was amazing to be able to see one that close. I was fascinated.

Ayaka: when we watched waterfalls because I've never seen such a huge waterfalls.

Paolo: My favourite moment was when we visited the scientist and his house, because I loved his garden and the feeling of inner peace it gave me.

Kiyo: It was memorable to live in small hubs from TRU in the middle of deep mountains without cell reception.

Fedra: When at night we were playing the guitar in front of the campfire and singing songs.

Gloria: Fishing at the lake even if it was raining and everyone was cheering for me!

Niklas: Hikes to the waterfalls and being in the nature

Oli: The connection I formed with students over the trip. If I would have to say one specific moment it would be the spontaneous party in the main cabin.

Lasse: The waterfalls and sitting around the fire while roasting marshmallows.

Anne: Campfire, first hike, party

Fredi: The "interview" or more the questions to the scientist and his inspiring lifestyle and his property.

Tebbe: The campfire and songs that we sang together.

Valentin: Visiting the waterfalls and the campfire in the evening.

Alina: I loved the double rainbow, the waterfalls and the whole night (campfire, party and sleeping in the cabins in the woods).

### One thing I learned:

Kaito: Feeling nature helps me forget my worries.

Tim: I learned on this trip that I really like the nature of Canada and that I really wanna come back and stay.

Luisa: I learned how to prepare a fish to eat it.

Lea: We should appreciate nature and what is right in front of us more.

Eva: How to clean a fish so that I will be able to survive to a zombie apocalypse!!

Adrien: I have learned a bit about wildlife and nature in Canada, and it makes me want to learn more and more about it.

Julius: To find your own luck you need to be and do exactly who you are.

Ilja: How to fish in a lake and how to prepare the fish for a nice dinner.

Jack: How Wells Gray Park was formed (land and water) from Trevor Goward's talk.

Chiara: You need to scream and make noise to avoid being attacked by a bear (to let the bears know where you are).

Linda: We should protect nature more.

Auroa: Lichens have more functions that a single organism can't have inside of it and you can send them into space.

Chisato: A lot of small animal (like frogs and toads) are living in the forest.

Soizic: The highlands in Wells Gray and the fact that they used to be the end of the American continent. I was really surprised by this fact and found it very interesting.

Ayaka: Camping is so fun.

Paolo: One thing I did not really learn, but remembered on the trip, was the beauty of nature. Sometimes we forget, and it was nice to remind myself how beautiful nature is.

Kiyo: How to cope with different situations about the sudden changes, such as the quick changes of weather between sunny and rainy.

Fedra: Nature in Canada is incredible and that to fish you have to be patient!

Gloria: I learned that I have to try everything cause u never know if u will like something or not until u try it. get out from the comfort zone is so important.

Niklas: There is so much nature around and we should care for and appreciate it.

Oli: How to prepare a fish.

Lasse: I learned that it's to give a person or an animal personal freedom so that they can develop their own personality (from the scientist example: dog)

Anne: Beavers are cute.

Fredi: There is still a lot of beautiful nature that we need to protect and reserve.

Tebbe: I learned a lot from the scientist we talked to I liked his stories about the Lichen.

Valentin: I learned to fish, because I never was fishing before.

Alina: What to do when you see a bear.