

Wells Gray Provincial Park Trip May 27-28, 2022

SD73 International Student Program



On May 27, a school bus and a staff vehicle transporting 36 students and 3 chaperones left Kamloops at 8:30 am and headed north 125 kms to Wells Gray Provincial Park for a 2 day - 1 night trip there. Our accommodation was the Thompson Rivers University Wells Gray Education and Research Station. The days were full of hiking, waterfalls, wildlife, and very little wifi. We arrived in Clearwater around 10:00 and bought late breakfasts and food that we would need for lunch on the trail. We then headed up to the TRU research station and dropped off our overnight bags, sleeping bags, etc... After this we drove deep into Wells Gray Park and hiked the complete 4.2 km Bailey's Chute/west Lake Loop Trail. We had packed several fishing poles and the students who had purchased fishing licenses tried some fishing in West Lake. The fishing was a bit slow with only 2 Rainbow Trout and a few misses in an hour or more of fishing. We then headed back to our accommodations, picked out sleeping spots, and drove down to Clearwater for supper. Food was eaten quickly and soon we were back on the road for a dusk bear drive at around 7:00 pm. The bear drive resulted in a sow and single cub Black Bear beside the road near our accommodation. The mother had a healed stump for one of its back legs.



SD73 went that way ←



Cleaning one of the trout.

Western Toad



2

3



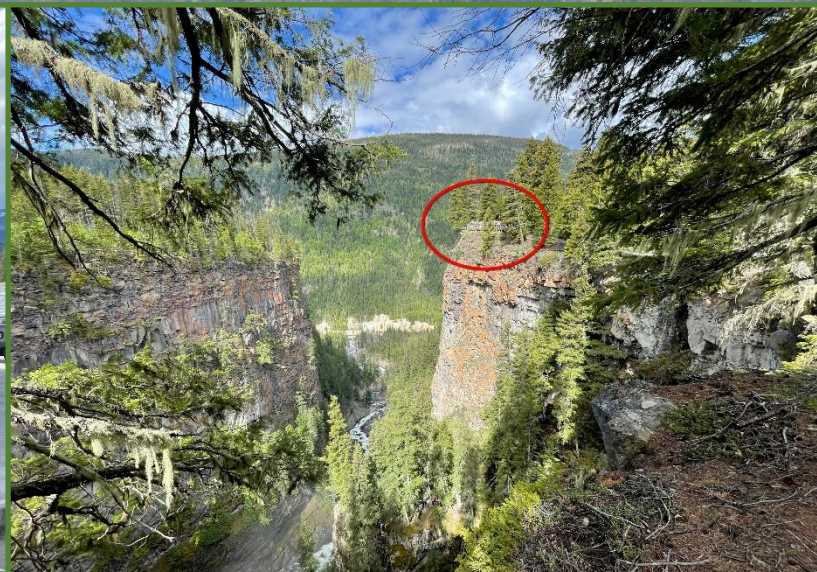
Two Black Bears seen on our dusk drive.



We were grateful that these bears were seen so near to our accommodation as this prevented us from being late for our fireside talk at Edgewood Blue with Trevor Goward. Trevor is a life-long naturalist and renowned lichenologist. He owns a large and very naturally rich piece of property surrounded by Wells Gray Park. It is his dream that his property be used for the education of all things nature. We had a nice 1 hour visit there and many of the students stayed longer to ask more questions and have dialogue with Trevor about topics such as climate change, lichens, his history, etc... After this we walked back to the TRU research station and had a campfire where we made smores and cooked the two Rainbow Trout. Big thanks to Chef Shoen for his handiwork with preparing the camp fire-cooked trout! There were no leftovers 😊.

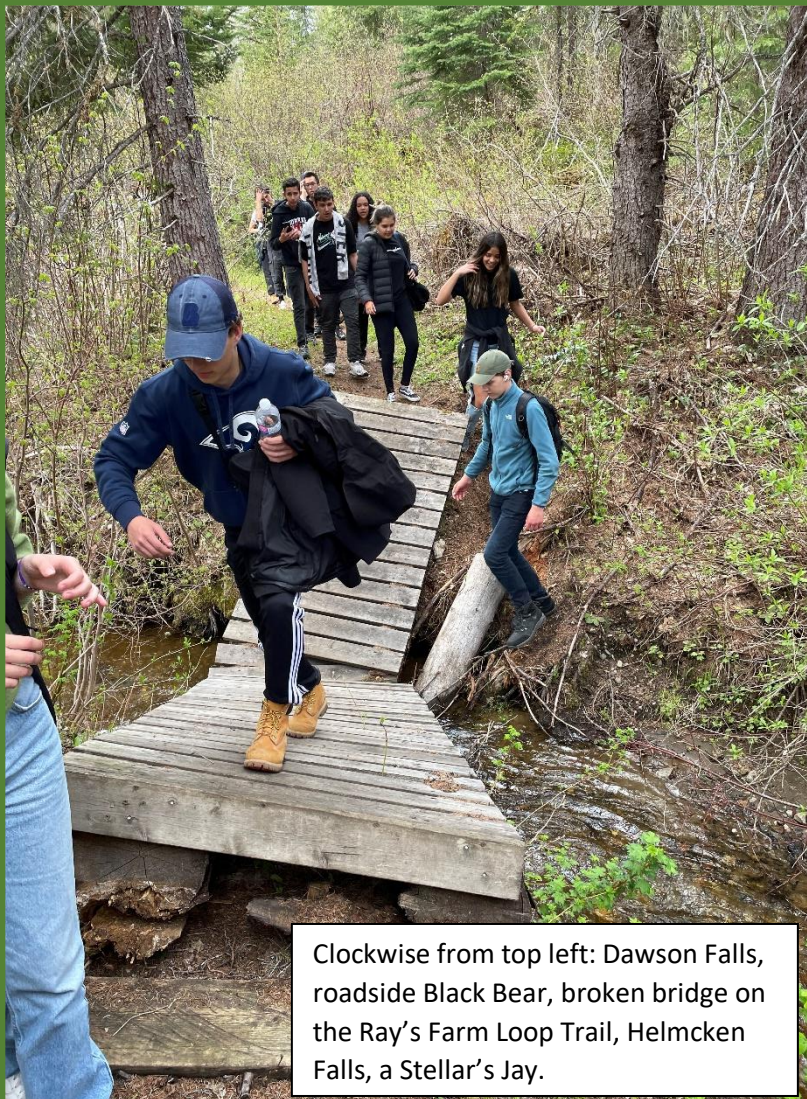


Day 2: The bus met us at 8:30 and we were soon on our way to Clearwater to buy breakfast and lunch food to take with us. We stopped at Spahats Falls on the way back to Wells Gray Park and then found another Black Bear beside the road on the way to the sign for the always-popular sign photo. Our next stop was the Green Mountain Lookout, a short distance past the sign. We then travelled further into the park stopping at Dawson Falls before hiking the entire Ray Farm Loop Trail (3kms). On the way back we stopped at Helmcken Falls, the signature waterfall in Wells Gray Provincial Park. After this we drove back to the research station for a final clean up and then went on to Clearwater for supper and the 1.5-hour drive back to Kamloops. Two very full days of adventure! Thankfully the mosquitoes were not at their highest levels yet. A huge thanks to TRU for letting us stay at the research station there. A fantastic base camp from which to explore!





A panoramic shot of the entire group up in the Green Mountain Lookout Tower.



Clockwise from top left: Dawson Falls, roadside Black Bear, broken bridge on the Ray's Farm Loop Trail, Helmcken Falls, a Stellar's Jay.

One thing that I learned on this trip:

Anne – how relaxing it can be to be without a phone connection and not feeling like checking my phone all the time, because there won't be any new messages anyway.

Constanze – I definitely learned more about the 'Canada nature' and it's prettiness and without a phone connection it was really relaxing.

Vieri – Nature can create awesome landscapes.

Yasmin – We can cook fish in a fire.

Elia – To enjoy nature as much as possible.

Yui – I impressed the Canada's magnificent nature again. My country, Japan, I don't think there can see such a big nature so I had a wonderful experience on this trip.

Livia – I learned about different species of birds.

Clarissa – how to catch and clean fish which was very interesting to see.

Jan – you shouldn't feed a bear because that can actually result in his death because he will associate humans with food.

Laura – Black Bears are not that big.

Matteo – I'm continuing learning and appreciating nature.

Gabriel – Waterfalls here are very beautiful.

Alva – how to clean fish.

Christina – the small and beautiful things make you the happiest.

Emilia – I learned that the nature is super diverse and extremely admirable.

Nikolas – Canada is a beautiful country.

Matheus – How to make smores.

Natalia – I learned that everything is better when you're with your friends.

Sacha – We learned a lot talking with Trevor, especially about the importance of nature.

Fernando – I learned how to make smores.

Chisato – I learned that the richness of nature is wonderful. There were many creatures and flowers in it, and healed my heart.

Giorgio – How to clean a fish with my hands, taking off all the entrails and cutting the head.

Julian – waterfalls can move upstream.

Lotte – our planet is insane and every one of us has to take care of it. + how to gut a fish.

Greta – I learned to fish, to clean fish and to cook them on the fire.

Isobel – Fishing is hard.

Roberta – Everyone has a story to tell.

One thing that I learned on this trip:

Theo – Bears don't eat only meat as people think the most. They eat 90% of grass and flowers such as dandelions.

Christoph – High snow not only protects plants from freezing, but also from being eaten by herbi- and omnivores.

Evan – To sleep on the ground.

Thomaz – How to make smores.

Florenzia – As long as you respect nature, you'll always find wonders coming from it. That's how we're still able to see these breathtaking landscapes and to walk through the magnificent forests that surround us.

Julia – I learned to live with my friends for many hours.



My favourite moment from the trip:

Anne – the waterfalls. Just watching them felt really relaxing and calming.

Constanze – was to see all these beautiful waterfalls and especially to hear the sound because of its calming effect.

Vieri – Fishing with Matteo.

Yasmin – Visiting the biggest waterfall.

Elia – The talk with the scientist and seeing the two big waterfalls.

Yui – I could hike and then saw many beautiful waterfalls with my friend. The waterfalls are so big, beautiful loudly sounds and I stay near there, I could feel like crisp fresh air.

Livia – sleeping in the same room as my friends and laughing the whole night.

Clarissa – Seeing Helmcken Falls because it was incredible to see such a big natural waterfall. I also loved seeing the bears so close to the road.

Jan – probably just taking pictures with my friends at all the different falls.

Laura – Our first hike when we were eating at the "beach".

Matteo – Fishing and catching my first fish.

Gabriel – The fire with smores.

Alva – to sit on the little beach in the sun and watching the river.

Christina – the waterfalls. I felt so free and I didn't focus on the bad things. I was just very grateful to be at this place. I also liked the hike where I could just switch off to enjoy the nature. In general, I really enjoyed the whole trip and I learned how powerful and beautiful nature can be.

Emilia – My favorite moment was the evening at Trevor's property. Listening to him while being on his incredible property was unforgettable.

Nikolas – The most beautiful moment was watching waterfalls.

Matheus – The firepit at night.

Natalia – Sleeping with my friends in the cabin.

Sacha – the discussion with Trevor because it was so interesting and he shared with us his thoughts and knowledge on several things. I could have stayed there longer.

Fernando – when everyone was around the fire making smores.

Chisato – The last waterfall I saw was beautiful. There is no such a big waterfall in the area where I live, and I was impressed by my first experience.

Giorgio – the campfire of the first night and cooking marshmallow and fish on the fire.

Julian – When we saw the bears.

Lotte – the short drive in the box of the pickup truck.

Greta – when we caught the fish.

Isobel – the bus rides.

Roberta – fishing altogether.

Theo – Bears watching because for somebody like me who only has ever seen bears before was in a zoo was awesome to see them in liberty and so close to us.

Christoph – Trevor's property, just sitting for a moment and enjoying nature.

Evan – When I see the waterfall.

Thomaz – The fire and the first hike.

Florencia – I have tons of favourite moments but the one that made a great impact on me is the time we went to visit Trevor's place and had a talk with him for a while. That talk showed me even more perspectives of the world than the ones I already had.

Julia – When we were at the fire.

