



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

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FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$461K FOR LOCAL FISH & WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Fish and wildlife in the Lower Mainland will be better off this year, thanks to a contribution of \$461,000 made by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for conservation projects in the region.

The environmental granting organization announced on Friday that it will be providing funding for 14 projects exclusive to the Lower Mainland, and several others with activities taking place within the region.

Included among this year's grant recipients is the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust, who will use the HCTF funding to support their work in encouraging farmers to plant winter cover crops and establish grassland set-asides on their properties. These additions provide valuable habitat and feeding grounds for migratory and predatory birds.

Another local grant recipient is the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC's popular Learn-to-Fish program. Workshops held at local lakes teach kids (and adults) basic angling skills in hopes of getting them hooked on an outdoor activity that can lead to a lifelong appreciation of nature and an interest in conservation.

"Thanks to the HCTF's on-going and generous support for our Learn-to-Fish program, we are able to teach about 25,000 youth and their families how to fish responsibly each year. This program is central to our goal of building a new generation of anglers in BC and so far over 125,000 people have taken part," said Don Peterson, President of the FFSBC.

Other Lower Mainland projects include a sturgeon monitoring and assessment program, and a long-running project that relocates Roosevelt Elk from problem areas along the Sunshine Coast Highway to remote watersheds in southwestern British Columbia where the species once lived.

Most of the money HCTF uses to fund these projects comes from conservation surcharges on fishing and hunting licences.

"The Foundation is a concrete symbol of the user's investment in the resource," said HCTF Chair, Harvey Andrusak. "Few people realize how much of the critical conservation work taking place in this Province is funded by anglers, hunters, guide outfitters and trappers. We all benefit - these projects improve conditions for a tremendous range of species, not just those targeted by contributors."

You can view a complete list of funded projects on the Foundation's website at hctf.ca.

Contact:

Shannon West, Communications & Program Officer

shannon.west@hctf.ca

Ph: 250 940 9789

www.hctf.ca

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