



HABITAT  
CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDATION

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 11, 2014

### FOUNDATION GRANTS OVER \$400K TO LOCAL FISH & WILDLIFE PROJECTS

**Kelowna, BC** – Fish and wildlife in the Okanagan will be better off this year, thanks to a \$412,000 contribution made by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for conservation projects within the region.

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

Included among the approved projects is the Penticton Creek Restoration Initiative. The City of Penticton received an \$85,000 grant to develop a restoration plan for the severely channelized waterway so that it can provide both flood protection and spawning habitat for fish species that would have historically occurred there.

“During a visioning process, the City asked residents how Downtown Penticton could become more sustainable. A large number of people identified the value of Penticton Creek to the commercial core, noting it was time to consider revitalization of vital fish habitat,” said City of Penticton Mayor Garry Litke. “Rehabilitation of Penticton Creek is a significant project for our community, and grant support from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation has been critical to moving this project forward.”

The Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society also had its \$55,000 funding request approved by the Foundation. The Society is hoping to build upon the success of another HCTF-funded project, the South Okanagan Stewardship Program, by expanding land stewardship activities to the Central and North Okanagan.

Project leader Alyson Skinner says funding from HCTF has greatly contributed to the program’s success.

“These grants have allowed us to support landowners and community groups in the conservation and restoration of important wildlife habitats for twenty years. We’re looking forward to building on that foundation and expanding to support land stewards and communities throughout the Okanagan Basin.”

Another local grant recipient is the Middle Vernon Creek Action Plan, which is working to secure a consistent water supply for the primary spawning tributary of Wood Lake, Canada’s top kokanee fishery. The Foundation is also funding restoration and outreach activities at Mission Creek.

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 find a complete list of HCTF funded projects on the Foundation’s website at [hctf.ca](http://hctf.ca).

*Contact:*

Shannon West, Communications & Program Officer

[shannon.west@hctf.ca](mailto:shannon.west@hctf.ca)

Ph: 250 940 9789

[www.hctf.ca](http://www.hctf.ca)

###

---