

2019-20 Approved Projects on Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M Vancouver Island	1-72	Operation & maintenance of the aeration program at Glen Lake, flow augmentation in Sandhill Creek, inspection and maintenance of fishways located in the Gordon River and Colquitz Creek and an Annual Dam Inspection at Keogh Lake.	\$11,750.00	Scott Silvestri MFLNRORD 250-751-3128 scott.silvestri@gov.bc.ca
Keogh River Steelhead Population Dynamics	1-319	The Keogh River Research Facility has been in operation since 1976 to annually enumerate salmonid smolt output and winter run steelhead adult returns. Further, we are able to obtain precise and accurate counts of returning adults via a fence trap, mark-recapture, and a resistivity counter. This provides a unique opportunity to obtain precise and accurate smolt-to-adult survival used to understand population and recruitment dynamics of steelhead populations in BC.	\$141,900.00	Trevor Davies MFLNRORD 778-698-9218 Trevor.Davies@gov.bc.ca
Bring Back the Bluebirds: Georgia Depression Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project	1-538	By supporting the recovery of reintroduced Western bluebirds, through in-depth population monitoring and extensive nesting support, a local community is engaging in long-term Garry oak ecosystem stewardship with the goal of returning Western bluebirds to their historic range in the Salish Sea.	\$22,800.00	Genevieve Singleton Bring Back the Bluebirds Project Coordinator 250-710-5618 cowichanbluebird@gmail.com
Estimating Cougar Populations on Northern Vancouver Island using DNA mark-recapture techniques	1-589	This project utilizes DNA-based mark-recapture inventory techniques and closed spatial mark-recapture modelling to create science-based cougar population estimates for Northern Vancouver Island.	\$30,194.00	Jerry MacDermott MFLNRORD 250-751-3229 Jerry.MacDermott@gov.bc.ca

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West Coast Roosevelt Elk Augmentation and Recovery Project	1-599	The primary objective of this project is to re-establish viable Roosevelt Elk populations in wilderness areas of the West Coast Region while mitigating conflicts through translocation of elk from agricultural areas and along the highways of Vancouver Island, BC. Partnerships with community organizations, stakeholders, and industry and First Nations governments are key to facilitate recovery of this blue-listed species on Vancouver Island. Relocated herds will help improve ecosystem function and provide future opportunities for sustenance and recreational uses in new population units.	\$15,000.00	Billy Wilton MFLNRORD 250-751-3213 william.wilton@gov.bc.ca
Vancouver Island Small Lake Enrichment - Program Expansion (Year 4 of 5)	1-644	Using established lake fertilization techniques with proven performance, this program aims to enrich up to eight small lakes on Vancouver Island to enhance or produce trophy fisheries for rainbow and cutthroat trout, as well as a kokanee fishery, a potential first for Vancouver Island.	\$38,284.00	Jeremy Damborg British Columbia Conservation Foundation (Lantzville) 250-390-2525 jdamborg@bccf.com
Blackburn Nature Reserve (Year 3 of 3)	1-649	This Land Stewardship Grant will support land management activities including monitoring of restored wetland areas, removal of invasive species, and public access management. Funding amount is for three-year term.	\$41,000.00 over 3 years	Christine Torgrimson Salt Spring Island Conservancy 250-538-0318 christine@saltspringconservancy.ca
Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve (Year 3 of 3)	1-650	This Land Stewardship Grant will fund land management activities including management planning and further restoration of the Garry Oak ecosystem. Funding amount is over a three-year term.	\$20,280.00 over 3 years	Chris Perrin The Nature Conservancy of Canada 250-479-3191 chris.perrin@natureconservancy.ca
Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project - Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Pilots	1-663	To slow & reverse critical shoreline & wetland habitat destruction in the upper Cowichan River basin. BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) and Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) members work closely with supportive landowners to restore lake and river shoreline properties and use these as practical demonstrations of enhanced stewardship of valuable riparian and wetland habitats.	\$38,513.00	Melissa Evans Assistant Program Manager 250-390-2525 mevans@bccf.com
Determination of Comox Lake Juvenile Cutthroat Trout Life History Strategies	1-664	This project is using otolith microchemistry to characterize Coastal Cutthroat Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>) outmigration into Comox Lake from natal tributaries (e.g., timing and size at outmigration, and natal stream origin), and examines the relative contribution of natal streams to the adult production in Comox Lake.	\$30,374.00	Jamieson Atkinson British Columbia Conservation Foundation (Lantzville) 250-390-2525 jatkinson@bccf.com

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Restoring the Englishman River Estuary: Improving habitat for fish and wildlife	1-666	This is Year 3 of a 5 year project to restore coastal processes and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the Englishman River estuary. In partnership with government and local stewardship groups, this project seeks to restore coastal processes in the estuary and improve fish and wildlife habitat by removing historical dikes and berms in the western estuary, enhancing tidal channels, increasing habitat complexity, removing invasive plants, restoring native vegetation and conducting public outreach.	\$47,300.00	Peter deKoning Nature Trust of BC 250-751-3151 pdekoning@naturetrust.bc.ca
Little Qualicum River Estuary - Mill Pond Restoration Project	1-673	Fish and wildlife habitat in an abandoned industrial "log storage pond" will be systematically restored over three years as part of a much larger Little Qualicum River Estuary Restoration Project. The Mill Pond project will be a collaboration between the BC Conservation Foundation, Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers, Guardians of Mid Island Estuaries Society and adjacent private landowners who control the only road access to the site.	\$35,000.00	Melissa Evans BC Conservation Foundation Assistant Program Manager 250-390-2525 mevans@bccf.ca
Seasonal habitat supply for the management and restoration of Roosevelt Elk	1-675	We will deploy over 60 GPS collars on Roosevelt Elk on Vancouver Island to validate an existing winter habitat model and develop habitat models for all seasons to quantify the relationship between habitat use and elk populations. Project outcomes will improve elk habitat and population management decisions.	\$98,700.00	Darryn McConkey MFLNRORD 250-751-3104 Darryn.mcconkey@gov.bc.ca
Re-establishing Vancouver Island Marmots in Strathcona Provincial Park	1-693	The Marmot Recovery Foundation will build and extend on efforts to reintroduce Vancouver Island Marmots to Strathcona Provincial Park and create a self-sustaining population of the endemic mammals. Efforts will focus on translocations, food enhancement, monitoring and potentially habitat restoration as guided by BC Parks.	\$45,100.00	Adam Taylor Marmot Recovery Foundation 250-390-0006 adam@marmots.org

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<p>Gold River - Steelhead Stock Decline Investigations</p>	<p>1-694</p>	<p>This project will evaluate the current abundance of wild summer and winter-run Steelhead during all life-stages in the Gold River. A brief habitat overview and limiting factors analysis (desktop) will be conducted and will consider factors both within the watershed and the marine environment. The latter will include near shore early marine survival (Muchalat Inlet) as well as late marine survival, with the potential role of predation within the lower river and estuary being a key part of the project. Subject to project outcomes, an action plan will be developed with management recommendations for activities to assist this dwindling wild stock, historically supporting one of the most productive winter-run Steelhead sport fisheries on the Pacific Coast.</p>	<p>\$19,437.00</p>	<p>Jeremy Damborg British Columbia Conservation Foundation (Lantzville) 250-390-2525 jdamborg@bccf.com</p>
<p>Promoting Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement on Salt Spring Island, BC</p>	<p>1-700</p>	<p>Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) will protect and enhance wildlife populations and rare ecosystems on the island by acquiring lands, conservation covenants and stewardship agreements; restoring Garry oak and wetland ecosystems and removing invasive species in 3 SSIC Nature Reserves; and inspiring the public via education events and signage.</p>	<p>\$43,414.00</p>	<p>Christine Torggrimson Salt Spring Island Conservancy 250-538-0318 christine@saltspringconservancy.ca</p>
<p>Restoring North Vancouver Island Estuaries</p>	<p>1-702</p>	<p>This project aims to restore coastal processes and improve fish and wildlife habitat in the Quatse River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and the Salmon River Estuary Conservation Area. In partnership with government, First Nations and local stewardship groups, we will construct sedge benches and freshwater tidal channels in the Quatse WMA; and, remove invasive species, improve riparian habitat, construct/enhance wetlands, and conduct habitat enhancements for Roosevelt Elk in the Salmon River Estuary Conservation Area.</p>	<p>\$76,176.00</p>	<p>Peter deKoning Nature Trust of BC 250-751-3151 pdekoning@naturetrust.bc.ca</p>
<p>Wildwood Creek Wetland Stewardship Project</p>	<p>1-705</p>	<p>This three-year stewardship project will restore and enhance ecologically important habitat in the Wildwood Creek watershed to increase connectivity between regionally protected lands and increase community understanding, participation and regional leadership in conservation.</p>	<p>\$22,955.00</p>	<p>Paige Erickson-McGee Habitat Acquisition Trust 250-995-2428 paige@hat.bc.ca</p>

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Riparian Restoration in the Cowichan River-Estuary Interface	1-712	This proposal will build upon a previous project, funded by HCTF, which produced a multi-year riparian rehabilitation plan for the lower Cowichan River, in Duncan, B.C. This Seed Project will allow BCCF to engage and further coordinate with landowners and stakeholders in riparian rehabilitation at the River-Estuary Interface (REI; i.e., tidally influenced reaches) of the Cowichan River. A successful Seed proposal will lead to a multi-year enhancement project specifying the design and implementation of a riparian restoration plan for the Cowichan REI.	\$5,000.00	Jennifer Sibbald BC Conservation Foundation Restoration Ecologist 250-390-2525 jsibbald@bccf.ca
Scoping UV filter (sunscreen) contamination and mitigation in the Cowichan watershed	1-713	Recently, concerns have been raised over UV filter (sunscreen) contamination of the Cowichan River watershed and its potential impact on aquatic organisms. BCCF will use seed grant funds to (1) review existing literature on UV filter contamination and their ecotoxicological effects in aquatic environments, (2) collaborate with Vancouver Island University's Applied Environmental Research Laboratory on UV filter sampling and detection protocol development and (3) develop a full proposal to HCTF aimed at assessing and mitigating UV filter contamination in the Cowichan River watershed.	\$5,000.00	Melissa Evans BC Conservation Foundation Assistant Program Manager 250-390-2525 mevans@bccf.ca
Restoring wildlife passage under roads where rip rap obstructs animal movement	1-717	The GCA will consult with regional experts and managers, indigenous hunters, relevant agencies, and a cross-section of the Galiano community in order to prepare a full proposal to the HCTF for an ecological deer management program on Galiano Island.	\$5,000.00	Barbara Beasley Association of Wetlands Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds 250-726-2636 beasley@island.net
Ecosystem restoration for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly and other species at risk on Hornby and Denman Islands	1-721	The Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly project is a collaborative science-based, ecosystem restoration project that includes population augmentation, community engagement, stewardship and public outreach for this butterfly, with benefits to many butterflies, bees, other pollinators and plants also at risk within the Garry Oak/coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems.	\$50,000.00	Jennifer Heron Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy 604-222-6759 Jennifer.heron@gov.bc.ca
Chemainus River: Copper Canyon Fish Passage Construction	1-723	The project aims to re-establish a passable migration path up a small cascade that was altered in 2017 as a result of a large rock slide. Using technical rock works the project aims to create a single step pool at the site, 12.8 km upstream of the estuary, to open up access to 40+ km of high value steelhead habitat.	\$60,023.00	Jeremy Damborg BC Conservation Foundation 250-390-2525 jdamborg@bccf.ca

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<p>Traditional and Environmental DNA (eDNA) Surveys for Sharp-tailed Snake</p>	<p>1-727</p>	<p>The federally Endangered and provincially Red-listed Sharp-tailed Snake (<i>Contia tenuis</i>) spends most of its life under the ground. Traditional snake monitoring using Artificial Cover Objects (ACOs) will be done in conjunction with investigating environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling as a survey tool. New occurrences of Sharp-tailed Snakes will be used to refine Critical Habitat designation and guide on-the-ground management activities.</p>	<p>\$18,495.00</p>	<p>Laura Matthias 250-931-0090 lmatthias@shaw.ca</p>
<p>Fishing and Natural Mortality of Cutthroat Trout in Cowichan Lake</p>	<p>1-728</p>	<p>This is a five year study that will use acoustic telemetry and high reward tags to determine fishing and natural mortality of wild cutthroat trout in one of Vancouver Island's most popular fresh water fishing destinations, Cowichan Lake. Tracking data will also provide information on the utilization of the lake by sub-adult and adult fish, including spatial and temporal distribution. These results will be used to support an objective and transparent evaluation of the regulations currently in place as well as alternative approaches.</p>	<p>\$88,226.00</p>	<p>Erin Rechisky Kintama Research Services Ltd. Research Manager 250-667-6951 Erin.rechisky@kintama.com</p>
<p>Tsolum River Gravel Bar Live Staking and Riparian Restoration Project.</p>	<p>1-730</p>	<p>This project will re-vegetate 2.2ha of gravel bars in the mid-section of the Tsolum River by using willow cutting live staking methods, and will also diversify the riparian area by planting 3,000 conifer seedling trees. Re-vegetating the gravel bars simulates and accelerates natural ecological processes, which leads to stabilization of excessive bed load that has accumulated in the river. Fish species that will benefit include Coho Salmon, Pink Salmon, Chum Salmon, Steelhead/rainbow trout and Cutthroat Trout, and willows will provide forage and cover for Roosevelt Elk that utilize this area.</p>	<p>\$25,594.00</p>	<p>Caroline Heim Tsolum River Restoration Society Program Coordinator 250-897-4670 Trrs.educationoutreach@gmail.com</p>

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