



\$9.2 M for B.C. Conservation Projects Including Endangered Vancouver Island Marmot Recovery

For Release June 4, 2020

Victoria, BC: The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) has announced \$9.2 million in funding for more than 180 individual wildlife, freshwater fish, and habitat conservation projects across British Columbia this year.

“This is no small feat,” said Dan Buffett, CEO of HCTF. “It reflects a diversity of funding from our core contributors [hunters, anglers, trappers and guides], court awards, provincial government contributions and endowments, and our partners such as the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC).”

Through cooperation with partners such as the FESBC, HCTF is able to support conservation organizations like the Marmot Recovery Foundation in their efforts to re-establish the critically endangered Vancouver Island marmot in Strathcona Provincial Park. Found among the subalpine meadows of Vancouver Island and nowhere else in the world, these charismatic rodents have become a symbol and rallying point for the conservation of at-risk species in BC and across Canada.

As one of the rarest mammal species in the world, Vancouver Island marmots require assistance to re-establish and maintain self-sustaining populations in their historic ranges across the island. The team at the Marmot Recovery Foundation employs several conservation strategies that aim to maximize the marmot’s success in their new homes. Strategies for maintaining a healthy population of marmots include translocating individual animals, food enhancement during crucial times of the year, tracking marmot populations and habitat restoration in alpine meadows. “Re-introducing an extirpated species back to the landscape is a long and difficult task. HCTF and FESBC’s financial commitment and understanding of the challenges has been key to our efforts,” says Adam Taylor, Executive Director of the Marmot Recovery Foundation.

Other funded projects taking place on Vancouver Island include:

- \$25,000 to facilitate the relocation of Roosevelt Elk from agricultural areas and highways on Vancouver Island to wilderness areas of the West Coast region, co-funded by FESBC.
- \$50,000 for collaborative ecosystem restoration of endangered Garry Oak ecosystems on Hornby and Denman Islands. Benefiting the Taylor’s Checkerspot Butterfly and other at-risk pollinator, bird, and plant species.
- \$75,000 to support the community-driven Tranquil Creek Salmonid Recover Project, restoring critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat.





Forest Enhancement
Society of British Columbia



HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION

FESBC's Executive Director Steve Kozuki is "thrilled to partner with the trusted and respected Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation to improve wildlife habitat. With their first-in-class management of funds and projects by talented and professional staff, we know that we are maximizing benefits for wildlife in British Columbia."

Each project funded through HCTF is reviewed by a multi-level, objective technical review process prior to final Board review and decision. HCTF's Board of Directors ensures that species important to BC anglers and hunters are supported but also place a great deal of importance on conserving whole ecosystems, species-at-risk and investing in environmental education across the province.

To see the complete list of HCTF funded projects or explore the conservation work being done near you view the [2020-21 Approved Project List](#) or our [2020-21 Project Map](#).

For Interviews:

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation

Craig Doucette, Communications Officer

Direct: 250 940 3012 | Toll-free: 1 800 387 9853 ext. 212

Craig.Doucette@hctf.ca

Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Aleece Laird, Communications Liaison

Direct: 250 574 0221

communications@fesbc.ca

HCTF Quick Facts

It is the mission of HCTF to improve the conservation outcomes of BC's fish and wildlife, and the habitats in which they live. We make a difference by funding conservation projects and by educating and engaging the public about BC's natural assets.

- Since 1981, HCTF has provided over \$189 million in grants for almost 3,000 conservation projects across BC.
- HCTF began as an initiative by BC anglers, hunters, trappers, and guide outfitters.

FESBC Quick Facts

In February 2016, the B.C. Government announced the formation of FESBC with initial funding of \$85 million and a five-member Board of Directors to oversee the establishment of the Society and the delivery of its purposes. An additional \$150 million was announced in early 2017.

- The purposes of FESBC are to advance environmental and resource stewardship of BC's forests by: 1) preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires; 2) improving damaged or low value forests; 3) improving habitat for wildlife; 4) supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests; and 5) treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.
- As of January 30, 2020, FESBC has supported 250 projects valued at \$233 million, in partnership with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada.