The Nature Trust
of British Columbia

HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Wildlife O&M Program

Regional Summary Reports

2015-16

Estuaries and wetlands comprise less than 3% of BC Coastline while providing habitat to over 80% of all coastal fish and wildlife species.

WEST COAST REGION

Ecological Significance

The Vancouver Island West Coast Region contains some of the most diverse and rarest ecosystems in British Columbia and supports internationally significant populations of fish and wildlife as well as some of the rarest species found in the Province.

Estuaries, wetlands and riparian areas are among the most diverse and productive ecosystems in the world. The importance of protecting and managing these habitats cannot be understated given their substantial life history functions and benefits not only to fish and wildlife but to the human population as well (e.g. clean water supplies, flood protection, mitigating impacts from climate change). It is estimated that more than 50% of wildlife species in North America rely on access to wetland habitat for at least part of their life-cycles, and almost 35% of all rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife species are dependent on wetland ecosystems (*Wetland Action Plan for British Columbia, 2010*).

In British Columbia, estuaries and coastal wetlands comprise less than 3% of BC's coastline, while providing habitat to over 80% of all coastal fish and wildlife species. Approximately 500 species of named plants and animals are associated with wetlands and estuaries, and 70 of those species are federally listed as endangered or threatened. Vancouver Island and the Central contain significantly higher ranked estuaries than any other eco-region in the province *(CWS Technical Report Series #476, 2007)*. Of the 8 Class 1 estuaries in BC, 4 are located on Vancouver Island.

Key Property Complexes

Baynes Sound
Cluxewe Estuary WMA
Dudley Marsh
Kingcome Estuary
Nanaimo Estuary
Englishman River (PQWMA)
Salmon River Estuary
Somenos Marsh
Buttertubs Marsh
Cowichan Estuary
Filberg Marsh
Lazo Marsh
Tofino Mudflats WMA
Asseek Estuary
Simpson Farm
Quatse WMA
Kumdis Slough

Despite their importance and rarity, approximately 43% of the province's estuaries are threatened by coastal development, modification, and pollution; approximately 60% of marsh habitats along the estuaries of the Salish Sea have been lost.

Since 1976, The Nature Trust of BC and the Province of British Columbia have worked together with several partner agencies to secure these critical habitats on Vancouver Island and the Central Coast. From the Cowichan Estuary to Kumdis Slough more than 100 conservation properties have been secured, protecting over 11,000ha of critical fish and wildlife habitat along with rare ecosystems.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

The Nature Trust of British Columbia

West Coast Region Program Summary 2015-2016

HCTF O&M Funding allocated $132,000 to the West Coast Region in 2015-16 to support projects focusing on the development & implementation of site specific management/ restoration plans; ongoing fish and wildlife inventory; recreational infrastructure (trails, interpretive signs); and the on-going engagement of community groups. In addition to HCTF, partner agencies contributed over $250,000 to support this work.

Over $130,000 was invested in the West Coast Region for the 2015/16 fiscal year that greatly assisted the conservation partners in achieving several key land management objectives. Of this funding:

- **$2,000** was invested in implementing an estuarine monitoring project for the Asseek and Bella Coola Conservation Areas. This work focused on the installation of data loggers to study inundation patterns and water quality parameters to monitor for estuarine health. This data will also provide baseline information to monitor changes over time due to climate change and potential future restoration projects.
- **$21,000** was invested at the Lazo Marsh Wildlife Management Area. Projects included the on-going implementation of a trail development/restoration plan; invasive species inventory and removal; coordination/construction of the Hilton Spring side channel (500m) project focusing on salmonid and amphibian habitat enhancement; installation of new trail signage; maintenance of viewing platforms and boardwalks.
- **$15,000** was invested at the Somenos Marsh Conservation Area. Projects included the creation of 15ha of constructed field swales to improve waterfowl habitat and agricultural productivity at the site; the development of a comprehensive riparian planting program as compensation for adjacent infrastructure development; invasive species inventory and removal; migratory bird counts; maintenance of Species-at-Risk restoration sites; production of new boundary/regulatory signs; finalization of strategic plan for Somenos Marsh Conservation Area
- **$15,000** was invested at the Cowichan Estuary Conservation Area. Projects included the coordination and implementation of the Mariners Island Restoration Project with several community partners that focused on the removal of approximately 10,000m3 of wood debris from the tidal saltmarsh; invasive species inventory and removal; coordination of annual farm plans including the planting of winter cover crops for migratory waterfowl; migratory bird surveys; nest box installation; hedgerow enhancement work; maintenance of water control structures.
- **$12,000** was invested at the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area. Projects included: trail and facility maintenance; restoration plan review and development with community partners for the Englishman and Little Qualicum estuaries; updated boundary/regulatory signage; coordination of annual migratory bird closures with Conservation Officer Service and Vancouver Island University; development of a comprehensive restoration program for the Englishman River Estuary including an engineering and hydro dynamic analysis and modelling of the potential complete removal of the Surfside berm; on-going response to immediate site issues.

- **$5,000** was invested in purchasing monitoring equipment to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive estuarine monitoring program focused on assessing habitat condition, accessibility and utilization. This program will also be studying the resiliency of estuarine ecosystems to changing environmental conditions due to climate change and increased frequency of storm events.

For additional information, including the pertinent land management objectives and conservation outcomes, please refer to the detailed annual reports.

Goals & Objectives by Property	Activities/ Description	Image(s)
Asseek Estuary		
Goal #1 Objective 1	1.1 Property inspection and habitat assessment. *Site visit and inspection with photographs, water quality readings taken, and water data logger monitoring devices installed and left for continuous data readings over the next 3-4months.*	   Photograph 1-3; site recce of Asseek and installation of data loggers for monitoring program

Baynes Sound		
Goal #1 Objective 1	1.1 Invasive species removal - targeted species include Japanese Knotweed, Spartina, Gorse, Knapweed. *Spartina patens "shade trial" site in Baynes Sound. Work completed in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited Canada.*	 
	1.1 Invasive species removal - targeted species include Japanese Knotweed, Spartina, Gorse, Knapweed. *Manual knapweed treatment (hand-digging) in Fanny Bay Conservation Area.*	

Goal #3 Objective 1:	3.2 Priority inventory information identified in Year 1 - ongoing data collection. *Revisiting baseline monitoring inventory plots in the Fanny Bay Conservation Area in cooperation with DUC. A training exercise was completed to establish protocols and train VICLMP staff in estuarine species identification and survey methods.*	
Goal #1 Objective 3	1.3 On-going partnership development wtih VIU Deep Bay Field Station to establish long term monitoring program for Baynes Sound. *Spartina field day in cooperation with VIU, BC Parks, Parks Canada, Raincoast Education Society, DUC, & FLNRO aboard VIU's vessel the RV Chetlo.*	

Buttertubs Marsh	
Goal #1 Objective 1	1.1 Maintain water control structure to ensure operational function and optimal water levels (including control clean up of beaver debris). *Regular maintenance of accumulated beaver debris.*

Cluxewe WMA		
Goal #1 Objective 2	1.2 Revisit permanent baseline inventory plots to confirm location and assess current condition - conduct strategic assessment. *Re-visiting estuarine monitoring transects and establishing monitoring protocol.*	

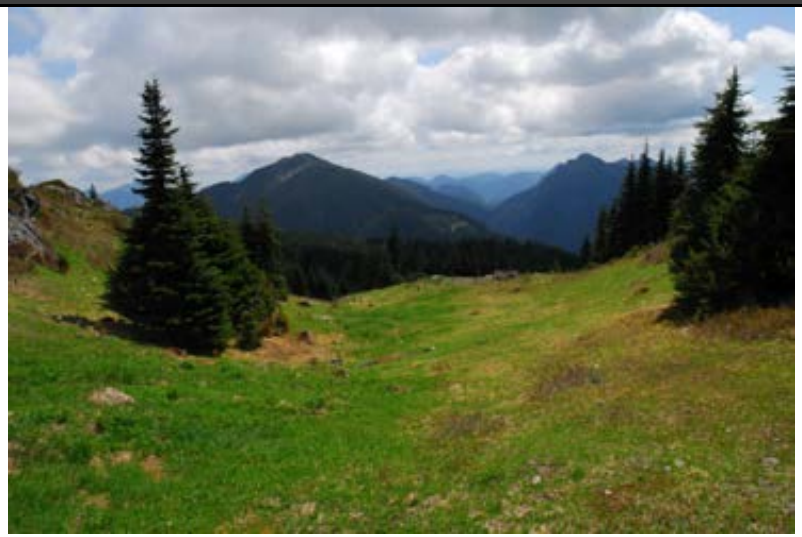
Cowichan Estuary		
Goal #2 Objective 1	2.1 Maintain dike trails, viewing platforms, signs and gates. *New fence constructed to prevent unauthorized access to farm fields, and Replacement Stop Logs for Water Control*	  

Goal #3 Objective 1	3.1 Inventory of estuary for Spartina and other invasive plant species. *Surveying intertidal channels via watercraft.*	
Goal #1 objective 3	1.4 Planting of hedgerow areas along field fringes. *Planting of shrubs: Saskatoon berry, Pacific crab-apple, Black hawthorn, red-flowering currant, snowberry, red-osier dogwood, Nootka rose, and black twinberry. (Right) Nest-box installation.*	  

Goal #2 Objective 1	2.1 Maintain dike trails, viewing platforms, signs and gates. *Culvert replacement.*		

Goal #1 Objective 1	*Removing wood debris on mariners island to restore salmonid access to estuarine distributary channels.(Before)*	  
Goal #1 Objective 1	*Removing wood debris on mariners island to restore salmonid access to estuarine distributary channels.(After)*	  

	Aerial view of Mariners Island Restoration Area – Cowichan Estuary 10,000m3 of wood debris removed in cooperation with WFP, CERCA and DUC	
Dudley Marsh		
Goal #1 Objective 3	1.1 Operation of water control structure intake valves, spill way and low flow regulator box in accordance with mgmt regime and water license. *Maintenance of water control structure.*	 

Goal #2 Objective 1	2.1 Inventory wetland for rare and endangered species (specifically targeting painted turtle, red-legged frogs). *Amphibian inventory.*	 
Green Mountain WMA		
Goal #1 Objective 1 &2	Objective 1: Provide long-term security for all marmot habitats, and enhance or improve where possible. Objective 2: Maintain and improve the existing habitat base, and continue to support viable and productive populations of plant and wildlife species in order to sustain the ecosystem and maintain biodiversity	 Post burn (2014-2015) site inspection to gauge habitat conditoin

Lazo Marsh NE Comox WMA		
Goal #4 Objectives 1 & 2	4.1 Inspection and maintenance of viewing platform, trails, board walks, fences and gates. *Debris removal.*	
Goal #1 Objective 1	1.1 Ongoing implementation of mgmt plan for Lazo Marsh including review of mgmt objectives; operational oversight of projects; addressing immediate site issues/needs. *Hilton springs fish sampling*	 

Goal #1 Objective 1	1.1 Ongoing implementation of mgmt plan for Lazo Marsh including review of mgmt objectives; operational oversight of projects; addressing immediate site issues/needs. *Oversight of Hilton springs restoration project (Left). Hazard/wildlife tree assessment and removal (Right).*	 
Nanaimo River Estuary		
Goal #1 Objective 3	1.2 Invasive species management and natural vegetation restoration focused on VESP habitat restoration program. *Manual bur chervil removal from restoration area.*	

	Aerial view of VESP habitat restoration area and side channel pond riparian restoration project	

Goal # 2 Objective 2	2.2 Maintain trails, platforms, gates. *Maintenance around the Richard Davies memorial viewing area.*	

Parksville Qualicum Beach WMA		
Goal # 1 Objective 1 - 4	1.7 Invasive species management and inventory throughout WMA focused on CIPC priority species and resident CAGO control plan. *Manual sweet fennel and Yellow archangel control.*	   

Goal #1 Objective 1 - 4	1.2 On-going trespass management. *Cleanup of debris left behind by squatters.*	 
Goal #2 Objective 1, 2 & 4:	2.2 Maintain infrastructure (trails, interpretive signs, viewing platforms, gates). *Fifty new regulatory signs installed.*	  

Goal #3 Objective 1	3.1 Assess inventory and monitoring priorities for the WMA in cooperation with stewardship partners. *Planting of native plants in cooperation with the Arrowsmith Naturalists.*	 

	Aerial view of western Englishman Estuary berm. Location for the development of comprehensive restoration project that includes hydraulic and coastal process engineering assessment. Project goal is to improve estuary resilience, create further accessible habitat and improve intertidal channel complexity	

Quatse Estuary WMA		
Goal #1 Objective 3	1.3 Address potential impacts and pressures associated with urban areas and industrial activity surrounding the WMA *Ongoing work with Compliance and Enforcement to address large industrial trespass in WMA* 3.2 Complete inventories, and fish, wildlife, plant and habitat studies; evaluate effectiveness of land management activities	 Photo #1 – Aerial view of trespas site  Photo #2 – Baseline water quality data collection

Salmon River Estuary		
Goal #2 Objective 1	2.2 On going invasive species work focused on priority invasive plants of the CIPC (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, spartina). *Ongoing treatments of Japanese Knotweed.*	

Goal #4 Objective 3	4.3 Production and Installation of new interpretive sign kiosk. *New interpretive kiosk installed.*	

Somenos Marsh		
Goal #3 Objective 1 & 2:	3.1 Manage development and implementation of habitat recovery plan for endangered species at Somenos Marsh in cooperation with HSP and Environment Canada. *Routine mowing and maintenance of Tall-woolly heads restoration area.*	
	New boundary and information signs developed for Garry Oak Protected Area within Somenos Marsh Conservation Area	

Goal #4 Objective 1-3	4.2 Field renovations to improve agricultural production. *Construction of "bioswales" to facilitate drainage of farm fields (left).*	
	4.2 Field renovations to improve agricultural production. *Construction of "bioswales" to facilitate drainage of farm fields (Image: Google Earth). These photos show before (on left) and after (on right) imagery of agricultural restoration area*	 

Tofino Mudflats WMA		
Goal #3 Objective 1 & 2	3.1 Coordinate on-going eel grass mapping and *Spartina* inventory. *Eelgrass meadow located on the Tofino Mudflats WMA.*	 
Willow Creek		
Goal # 2 & 4	4.1 Maintain and inspect infrastructure (bridges, trails, kiosks); identify public safety hazards. *Installation of wire mesh to prevent slipping.*	

Region: South Coast

Ecological Significance of the Region:

The majority of Lower Mainland Region conservation projects focus on the Fraser River and its tributaries. One of the largest rivers in the world, the Fraser flows from the Rocky Mountains south and west to the Fraser-Puget lowland, and into the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Georgia. The Fraser Basin watershed drains one quarter of the province. Sand and silt eroded from glacial terraces along its path are deposited as a delta in the Strait of Georgia. This delta is highly productive from an agricultural and human habitation perspective, making the Lower Mainland the socio-economic centre of the province.

The confluence of the Fraser and the Pacific Ocean results in delta marshes, estuaries, and an incredible level of diversity in fish and wildlife populations. The Fraser is the world's largest salmon river, while its estuaries provide critical resting areas for salmon migrating from salt to fresh water. Important year-round habitat for many bird species, the Fraser estuary is also a vital link in the Pacific Flyway, supporting over 1.5 million birds from three continents and 20 countries. The Boundary Bay, Sturgeon Bank and South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Areas have been designated as Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites. The estuary supports the largest wintering shorebird and waterfowl populations in Canada. The area also provides habitat for significant numbers of raptors and marine mammals.

The South Coast Region contains 12 Conservation Land complexes, administered regionally, including a number of properties owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Summary Statement of Regional Investment:

In 2015-16 $91,005.00 was allocated to the 12 Conservation Lands in the South Coast region, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

Project Highlights:

$6,348.20 invested in Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area for property inspection, invasive plant assessment and rubbish removal. Bert Brink continues to be a problem for illegal dumping of refuse. So far attempts to secure the site have been unsuccessful.

$10,358.78 invested in Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area for property inspections, rubbish removal, invasive plant management, and sign installation and maintenance. Extensive work was done in the Boundary Bay Old Field conservation site to remove invasive thistle and shrubs.

$3,494.32 invested in Camp Slough conservation area for property inspection, invasive species management, rubbish removal, damaged tree removal and restoration of disturbed areas.

$1400.00 invested in the Wells Sanctuary conservation area for property inspections, invasive plant removal, rubbish removal, and signage.

$2,514.00 invested in the Chilliwack River conservation area for property inspection, rubbish removal, documentation of ecological attributes and concerns, and maintenance of property information signage.

$1714.00 invested in the Harrison River conservation area for property inspection, rubbish removal, invasive species management, and maintenance of property information signage.

No investment was made in the proposed Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area this year. The proposed WMA was not designated before the end of the O&M funding term. Although consultation follow-up was completed last fiscal, there was a change in the leadership of the Scowlitz FN in the spring of 2015. The new leadership and band membership requested that additional consultation be conducted. This second round of consultation with the FN has been completed. Unfortunately, the Scowlitz do not support designating Harrison Bay as part of the proposed WMA. Region supports the designation of the WMA upstream of the Lougheed Hwy bridge and will forward this recommendation, along with the Order in Council package, to Victoria in the coming weeks.

$27,790.18 invested in the Pitt-Addington Wildlife Management Area to assess land management needs and ecological values, maintain informational signage, and maintenance of public access trails and facilities. Additional investments were made in removal of invasive black berry and purple loosestrife. Red-listed western painted turtles were released into the Pitt-Addington WMA in 2015. Signs and fencing was installed to protect the new turtle nesting beach and inform the public of its purpose. Loafing logs and sunning platforms were installed near the turtle nesting beach. A number of work parties were organized to remove old and current duck hunting blinds that were constructed in the marsh. Duck hunters have been reminded that permanent structures are not permitted in the marsh. Only portable blinds should be used and they should be set-up the day before hunting and removed at the end of the hunt. Maintenance of the Nature Dyke Trail, including clearing of vegetation and surface repair was completed. Inspection of the Dyke House, which is where the caretaker has resided since the property was purchased, has been deteriorating and was inspected. The inspector recommended that the building should not be inhabited and should be demolished. The caretaker was given notice that she would have to vacate the premises at the beginning of December. A hazardous materials inspection has been completed in preparation for demolition of the building. Two steel swing gates were installed , one at Addington and one at Pitt Poulder, to limit access of motorized vehicles to the two sites.

$1,086.00 invested in the Surrey Bend conservation area for property inspections, boundary identification, and rubbish removal.

$4,233.00 invested in the Silverhope Creek conservation area for ecological assessment, inspection for land management needs, public information sign installation, rubbish removal, and boundary identification. Barriers were installed to prevent trespass off-road vehicle access and dumping.

$3,131.38 invested in Coquitlam River Wildlife Management Area to remove fallen tree debris, repair the boundary fence, and remove squatters and garbage.

$2,508.29 invested in Roberts Bank Wildlife Management Area to remove and control invasive plants such as yellow flag iris, scotch broom and giant hogweed.

$11,420.40 invested in Serpentine Wildlife Management Area for fence repairs, garbage removal, trail maintenance, removal of invasive red-eared sliders, removal of nuisance beavers, and management of invasive parrot feather. Demolition of the old barn was deferred until 2016.

$5031.24 invested in South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Area for trail maintenance, clearing of danger trees, removal of permanent hunter blinds, repair of eroded dyke and repairs to water control structures to improve water circulation and quality. Work is continuing to establish a new population of streambank lupine (*Lupinus rivularis*) at a site that was discovered on Kirkland Island. Streambank lupine is a red-listed plant species with only a few stable populations in the region. Survival of transplanted seedlings has been low so far, as has germination of planted seeds, but steps are being taken to try and improve germination and survival.

No investment was made in Sturgeon Bank Wildlife Management Area this year. No action was necessary in Sturgeon Bank WMA this year. Sturgeon Bank WMA benefits from stewardship of, and proactive action by, the City of Richmond with respect to management of invasive species, vegetation management and removal of garbage along the dyke trail that is adjacent to the WMA. However, a research project was initiated in 2015 to determine why the salt marsh on Sturgeon Bank has receded over the last 30 years (see list of partner funding at the bottom of this report).

$1,923.68 invested in Squamish Estuary Wildlife Management Area to install a sign package.

$4,366.00 invested in Forslund-Watson conservation land for removal and control of invasive black berry, maintenance of infrastructure (primarily repair of vandalism to the perimeter fence and gate), garbage removal and trimming and mowing of vegetation around the pond. An ephemeral pond was also constructed to benefit amphibians in a wet section of the meadow.

No investment was made in the Pemberton Valley Wildlife Management Area this year.

Conservation Outcomes:

The 2015-16 field season resulted in the completion of a variety of land management activities on a number of Conservation Lands within the South Coast Region. Assessments of the ecological attributes and issues specific to each property form the basis for activity planning for current and future field seasons.

Restoration and enhancement of conservation lands for habitat values ensures that these lands are optimal for use by fish and wildlife that depend on them. Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, serves to demarcate boundaries and to provide the public with the means to contact a land manager to discuss management concerns and issues. Maintenance of access points and facilities on conservation lands ensures that public access will be safe.

Additional and Partner Funding:

$489,236 of funding was provided by FLNRO and its partners:

1. $7,000 from the Forests and Range section of FLNRO invested in removal and control of invasive plants.
2. $36,078.00 from Ducks Unlimited Canada for land management activities in WMAs and other conservation lands.
3. Approximately $250,000 was raised by the Squamish Watershed Restoration Society to complete restoration of the decommissioned log sort and access road in the Squamish Estuary WMA.
4. $2,658.25 from FLNRO to conduct a building and a hazardous materials inspection of the Dyke House in the Addington section of the Pitt-Addington WMA.
5. $4,000.00 from FLNRO to clean-up a fuel spill and remove a stolen fuel truck from Pitt-Addington WMA.
6. A partnership between FLNRO, Environment Canada and the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority has raised $116,000 a year, plus an additional $37,500 a year from HCTF, to support a three year research project to determine why the salt marsh on Sturgeon Bank has receded over the last 30 years. In some areas the marsh has receded up to 500m towards the main dyke. Roberts Bank WMA will also benefit from this work. The marsh on Westham Island has been relatively stable. By comparing the two sites, the partnership hopes to test various hypotheses proposed to explain why the marsh receded.

Region: **South Coast**

Photographs:

1. **Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area** –property inspections, removal of rubbish, control of invasive vegetation at access points. Here, the Lower Mainland Conservation Youth Crew removed invasive blackberry from the public information area.

2. **Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area** – property assessed for habitat values and management needs; photographic monitoring point established; garbage removed by Conservation Youth Crew and volunteers (above).

3. **Chilliwack River** – property assessed for management needs; boundary signage maintained; rubbish removed.


4. **Silverhope Creek** – property assessed for management needs; signage installed; extensive rubbish removed. Barriers to vehicle trespass installed.

Region: Thompson Okanagan

Ecological Significance of the Region:

The Thompson Okanagan Region has a dry, continental climate, lying in the rain shadow of the Coast and Cascade Mountain ranges. Vegetation varies from Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine at the subalpine elevations, and Douglas-fir at lower elevations, and ponderosa pine, bunchgrass, and sagebrush at the valley bottom. These vegetation zones are in relatively close proximity to one another, resulting in extremely rich biological diversity in a small area.

The Thompson portion of the region is one of the most biophysically diverse regions in the province. The landscape is filled with more than 200 lakes, hills dressed in sage, vast rolling grasslands, tumbleweeds, looming mountains and alpine valleys. The grassland areas north of Kamloops Lake are recognized for their importance to wildlife, primarily California bighorn sheep, mule deer and many species at risk. The Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA, the Lac du Bois Grasslands Protected Area, the Tranquille Ecological Reserve and the Tranquille WMA provide for a contiguous area of relatively undisturbed sensitive grassland ecosystem as well as provide uninterrupted habitat for associated species.

The Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA in the Thompson ranges in elevation from 340m at Kamloops Lake to 1450m at the upper reaches of the WMA. The area is largely a south-facing slope with rolling topography, exposed rock outcrops and some flatter benchlands. Vegetation ranges from sagebrush/grassland at lower elevations to open ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests at higher elevations. The area is very hot and dry, with the little surface water that is available being intermittent in nature, or present as scattered springs and ponds.

The Okanagan portion of the region, especially in the south, contains a large number of unique flora and fauna, as it is the northern extension of the Columbia Plateau. Analysis has shown that the South Okanagan is the top biotic rarity hotspot and the top species richness hotspot in British Columbia. It has more federally listed species at risk than any other area of the province, and more provincially Red-listed and Blue-listed species than elsewhere. Furthermore, with some 303 species of birds recorded from the Okanagan, and similar richness in other animals and plants, many species are found here and nowhere else in Canada (Geoff Scudder, 2006).

Human development over the past century in the Thompson Okanagan Region has resulted in dramatic reductions in native habitat with the low elevation zones such as the Bunchgrass Zone, Ponderosa Pine Zone and the Interior Douglas-fir Zones most at risk. Grasslands, and in particular the antelope-brush ecosystem in the Okanagan, have been greatly impacted. Over the past 15 years, the antelope-brush ecosystem has been reduced in area by over 65%, with current loss estimated at 2% per year. Channelization of the Okanagan River for flood control in the 1950's reduced its associated marshland

by 85 to 90%, seriously impacting riparian habitat viability in the region. With population expected to double in the next 25 years, habitat in the Okanagan will become increasingly endangered over time.

The Nature Trust has been working in the Okanagan area since 1971. To date 18 properties have been secured with the help of many funding partners, totalling over 4,250 hectares (10,500 acres). These conservation holdings are particularly contiguous, providing habitat corridors on a landscape scale.

Summary Statement of Regional Investment:

Over $95,000 was invested in the Thompson Okanagan Region for the 2015-2016 year, greatly assisting the conservation partners in addressing key land management objectives.

Project Highlights:

- **$1,900** was invested at Duck Meadows in protecting wetland and associated upland habitat through annual inspection; sign installation; invasive species inventory and control; and rubbish removal.
- **$3,086** was invested at the Kilpoola Lake property. Primary tasks included site visits; addressing livestock trespass; fence maintenance; boundary and information signage produced and installed; and invasive plant management.
- **$5,850** was invested at the Skaha Lake property. Primary tasks included site visits; review and input to vegetation management along transmission line right of way; invasive species management inventory and control; boundary and information signs produced and installed; and rubbish removal at parking area and along hiking trails.
- **$5,730** was invested at the Vaseux Lake-Schneider property. Primary tasks included site visits; planning for invasive plant management to protect this high integrity grassland habitat; perimeter fence assessed and repaired; and continuation of the photographic monitoring program.
- **$6,750** was invested at the Vaseux Lake – Emery & Franmar complex. Primary tasks included site visits; maintenance of fences; invasive plant management including surveys, mechanical control seeding and mowing; discussions with utility ROW; and continuation of the photographic monitoring program.
- **$10,150** was invested at the Vaseux Lake – Brock & Thomas complex. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive species management including survey and mechanical removal; fence repairs and sign development and installation.
- **$6,000** was invested at the Okanagan Falls Biodiversity Ranch. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive species management including survey and mechanical removal; fence repairs; and continuation of the photographic monitoring program.
- $**6,000** was invested at the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive species management including survey and mechanical removal; fence repairs; and continuation of the photographic monitoring program

- Investments on the Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA property were funded by the Resource Management Division of FLNRO. Primary tasks included site visits, monitoring and repair of existing Lewis' woodpecker boxes, deactivation of roads using natural materials to protect the sensitive grasslands and wetlands, open/closed road signs produced and installed, information signs installed, fences assessed and repaired and initiation of a photographic monitoring program. Partner contributions totalled **$15,000.**
- **$21,000** was invested on the South Okanagan WMA properties. Boundary and livestock exclusion fencing completed at key sensitive habitats for Yellow-breasted Chat, antelope brush, water birch-rose plant communities, wetland and aquatic oxbow habitats to exclude cattle from these habitats. Partners contributions totalled $**28,000**.
- **$6,888** was invested on the Antlers Saddle complex. Signage/fencing in place and maintained. Boundary fencing installed. Balance between public/recreational use and conservation values maintained; improved public conservation awareness. Partner contributions totalled **$21,500** primarily supporting reductions in tree density and fuel loading to improve open forest habitat values.
- **$1,900** was invested on McTaggart-Cowan WMA. Installed informational kiosk to provide WMA information to recreational users. Majority of public rec use of WMA is access from this location. Four boundary signs installed at boundaries between park and WMA.

Conservation Outcomes:

The 2015-2016 field season resulted in site assessments being conducted on a number of conservation properties in the Thompson Okanagan Region. Each property has distinct management needs and objectives that reflect the unique landscape and ecology of the area. The assessments are multifaceted and include evaluation of conservation values and issues which assist in addressing land management concerns and updating work plans.

Land management staff continued to build upon previous years efforts to update boundary and information sign at key access and high traffic points across the entire Thompson Okanagan Region. Approximately 25 km of boundary and range fence surveyed and maintained. Ongoing communication with conservation partners, utility right of way holders, and neighbouring property owners contributed to a successful field season. Road/dirt bike/quad trail deactivations were carried out on six sites; three of these were reinforcing work done last year. Over 40 hectares of TNTBC conservation lands was surveyed and/or mechanically treated for invasive species. All of the sites that were mechanically treated were also seeded with an approved grass seed mix.

Region: Thomspon Okanagan

Photographs:

South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area. Exclusion fencing to protect Antelope Brush habitat from off road vehicles, illegal dumping, camping, and livestock use.

South Okanagan WMA – Livestock exclusion fencing to protect wetlands, water birch plant communities and yellow-breasted chat nesting habitat in rose thickets.

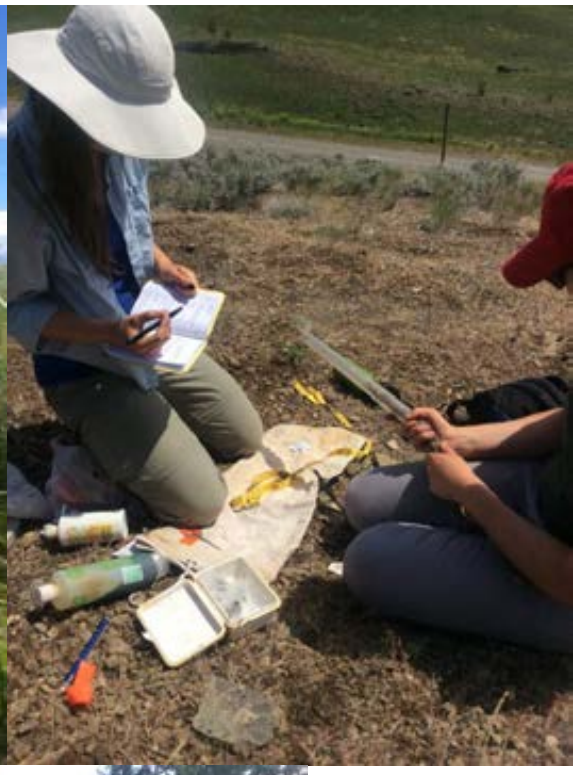
Exclusion fencing in Garnett Valley to protect mule deer winter range and wetlands from unauthorized camping, off road vehicle use and cattle impacts

Garnett Valley. Tree removal and brushing to improve forage availability for mule deer winter range.

Natural barriers used to block closed roads in Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA to protect sensitive grassland habitats and mesic and wetland sites from off road vehicle use and cattle impacts.

Open and closed road signs installed throughout WMA.

12 Lewis' Woodpecker boxes installed and monitored in 2013/2014/2015. 40% of nest boxes experienced some sort of activity.



White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch: Assisting with Species at Risk Surveys and fixing protective riparian fencing.

Vaseux Lake: East West North; Sign Maintenance

Duck Meadows: New Boundary Sign Installation.

Okanagan Falls Biodiversity Ranch: New Walk-through gate and section of fence with Boundary signage installed. Example of Photographic monitoring program.

2015 Okanagan Conservation Youth Crew (front), Okanagan Conservation Land Coordinator and Summer Intern (back).

Kootenay Region

2015-2016 Summary Report:

To provide regional staff and conservation partners with the financial resources required to achieve operational and maintenance land management objectives, $103,599.00 was allocated to 14 conservation properties in the Kootenay region

Project Highlights:

- **$1,750.00** was invested into the Bull River conservation land complex which is comprised of The Nature Trust of B.C.'s Armstrong and Lower Norbury Creek properties. Capital investment was directed towards the reduction and control of invasive blueweed plant species.

- **$6,755.00** was invested into the Wycliffe Corridor conservation property complex to inventory invasive plant species and distribution, construct information kiosks and repair perimeter fencing as required.

- **$2,500.00** was invested into the Grand Forks conservation property complex to reduce and control the spread of Hoary Alyssum.

- **$3,750.00** was invested into the repair of perimeter fences and the removal and control of invasive burdock plants on the Wolf Creek conservation property.

- **$11,000.00** was invested into the dismantling and removal of abandoned homestead structures and hazardous barbed wire fence on the Sheep Mountain conservation property. This was a necessary precautionary action initiated to reduce the probability of vandalism, liability issues and potentially harmful structures to resident and migrating wildlife.

- **$4,400.00** was invested in the Newgate conservation property to repair perimeter fences and determine future structural requirements to address trespass issues and stock watering requirements.

- **$10,000** was invested into the Creston Wildlife Management Area for the installation of signage, water level monitoring, and maintenance of wetland compartments.

- **$4,900.00** was invested into the Premier Ridge conservation property inventory the condition of perimeter fence and repair as required. Concurrently an inventory of the species and distribution of invasive plants on the property was also conducted.

Conservation Outcomes:

Nesting habitat for painted turtles was enhanced and enlarged through the removal of encroaching vegetation.

Seeding was conducted concurrently with invasive weed removal projects or mechanically disturbed sites in an effort to prevent the establishment of weed species and to re-establish native species and return the affected sites to a more functional and suitable condition.

The structural maintenance or installation component of the land management program enabled the Kootenay Conservation crew to conduct an inventory of property information signage and property boundary signage. This is an important element of the land management program as it not only establishes a footprint but provides a venue to provide information relative to the ecological values

and characteristics of the properties to the public, relate what recreational activities are permitted or appropriate and, through the inventory segment, establish future signage requirements.

The fencing component of the 2015-2016 HCTF O&M program made a significant contribution to the protection of wildlife moving on and off conservation lands. On the Sheep Mountain property, for example, 4.2 km of non-functional barbed wire fence, which presented a serious impediment and danger to elk and deer movement was removed from the site.

Invasive weed issues are rampant on some conservation lands and consequently invasive weed removal and control is an important component of the Kootenay HCTF O&M program. Herbicide control measures were implemented on 3 properties in the Bull River complex and one on the Grand Forks conservation complex in 2015. Monitoring will be initiated in 2016 to determine if the treatment was successful in curtailing the spread or eliminating the threat.

Invasive weed inventory and mapping was conducted on several Kootenay properties in 2015 with the intent of establishing a good inventory and scheduling control measures in 2016.

Infestations of burdock were removed from riparian habitats situated within a number of conservation properties which will improve the suitability of this important habitat type for a wide variety of wildlife species.

Region: Kootenay
Project Photographs

Wolf Creek
Goal 1/Objective 3 – Property boundary fence Inspection

Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Structures to be removed from the Sheep Mountain homestead

Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Initiation of project to remove homestead structures

Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Restoration of site where structures were located

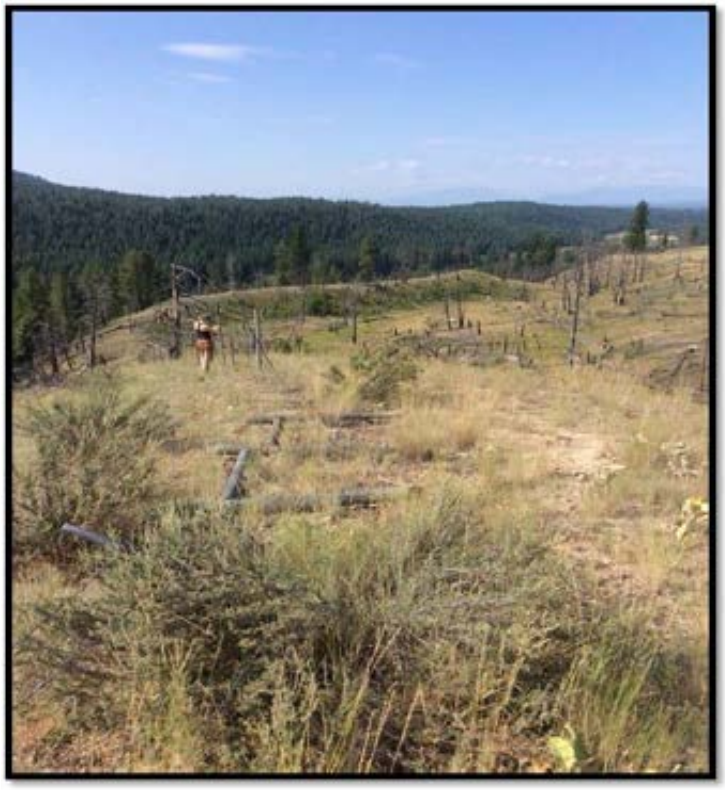
Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Removal of hazardous barbed wire from the site

Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Removal of hazardous barbed wire with mechanical assistance

Sheep Mountain
Goal 3/Objective 2 – Removal of hazardous barbed wire from the property

Premier Ridge
Goal 4/Objective 1 – Inventory of invasive plant distribution

Premier Ridge
Goal 3/Objective 1 – Repair damaged boundary fences



Flathead
Goal 1/Objective 2 – Construction of new kiosks to replace dilapidated signs

Elizabeth Lake
Goal 2/Objective 2 – Remove plant encroachment from turtle nesting sites and repair containment fencing

Elizabeth Lake
Goal 2/Objective 2 – Repair walk-through structures

Wolf Creek
Goal 3/Objective 1 – Removal of invasive burdock plants

Bull River
Goal 1/Objective 5 – Treat invasive blueweed infestations

Region: Cariboo

Ecological Significance of the Region:

The Cariboo Region is a diverse landscape, ranging from coastal inlets, to the vast dry grasslands of the Chilcotin Plateau, to the interior rainforest of the Cariboo Mountains. These varied terrains and conditions result in an equally varied diversity of fish and wildlife.

The Cariboo Region contains 6 Conservation Land complexes, administered regionally, including a number of properties owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Summary Statement of Regional Investment:

In 2015-16 $28,932.00 was allocated to the 6 properties in the Cariboo, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

Project Highlights:

$76,966.21 (HCTF $22,496.21) was invested in the Chilanko Marsh conservation area for property inspections for safety and ecological concerns. A total of 3.75 kilometers of fencing was built to protect habitat values from livestock access. Additional funding was received from Wildlife Habitat Canada ($20,500) and Ducks Unlimited Canada ($34,000).

$920 was invested at Knife Creek on fence maintenance. The Invasive Species Council of BC provided a crew, free of charge, which collected 23 large bags of flowering knapweed.

$900.00 invested in the Chilcotin Lake & Marshes conservation area for property inspections for safety and ecological concerns, and maintenance of property information signage.

$450.00 invested in the Dale Lake conservation area for property inspections for safety and ecological concerns, and maintenance of property information signage.

$450.00 invested in the Tautri Creek conservation area for property inspections for safety and ecological concerns, and maintenance of property information signage.

Conservation Outcomes:

The 2015-16 field season resulted in important land management activities on a number of Conservation Lands within the Cariboo Region. Fence construction and maintenance serves to protect sensitive habitat areas from inappropriate use. Assessments of the ecological attributes and issues specific to each property form the basis for activity planning for the following field seasons.

Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, with contact information was posted on properties where appropriate. This serves to demarcate boundaries and to provide the public with the means to contact a land manager to discuss management concerns and issues.

Region: **Cariboo**

Photographs:

1. **Chilanko Marsh** – assessment of ecological values and concerns; planning for and installation of 3.75 kilometers of fencing to prevent livestock access into wetlands.

2. **Chilcotin Lake & Marshes** – property assessed for habitat values and management needs. Perimeter fencing inspected. Boundary signs maintained.

3. **Dale Lake** – property assessed for management needs and safety issues; boundary signage maintained.

4. **Tautri Creek** – property assessed for management needs and safety issues; information signage maintained.

Region: **Skeena**

Ecological Significance of the Region:

The Skeena Region covers approximately one third of the province of British Columbia. It is a highly varied landscape, characterised by mountainous terrain, interspersed with large plateaus, a multitude of lakes and several of the province's largest rivers including the Skeena, the Nass and the Stikine.

The Skeena Region includes BC's North Coast from the Coast Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. This area is rich in biological diversity and noted for the Pacific Flyway, an important migration corridor for birds. Large rivers, such as the Nass and the Skeena, flow into the Pacific Ocean, providing critical estuarine habitats. The Skeena Region's extensive wilderness areas provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Both Black and Grizzly Bears occur here, and salmon are abundant in the major rivers and tributaries.

The Skeena Region contains 8 Conservation Land complexes, administered regionally, including a number of properties owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia, a Wildlife Management Area, and a Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Summary Statement of Regional Investment:

In 2015-16 $26,000.00 was allocated to 6 properties in the Skeena, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

Project Highlights:

$6,015.00 invested in the Alice Arm conservation area for property inspection and bird community inventory.

$1,543.00 invested in the Kitsumkalum Lake – Nelson River conservation area for property inspection, survey of invasive plants, access evaluation, and installation of property information signage.

$2,413.00 invested in The Lakelse River conservation area for property inspection, engagement with local stewardship club, production and installation of recreational trail etiquette signage, and boundary sign maintenance.

$1,029.00 invested in the Nadina River Valley – Owen Lake conservation area for property inspection and maintenance of signage.

$2,000.00 invested in Todagin WMA for Information Shelter installation.

$12,765.00 invested in the Bulkley Valley WHMAs ($4992.63 for barb wire clipping; $578.50 for Wildlife Friendly Fences Publications for circulation, $898.80 for additional signage – some in storage), and Toodienia/Hubert Hill juniper/grassland ecological restoration project ($6295.07).

Conservation Outcomes:

The 2015-16 field season resulted in the assessment of a number of Conservation Lands within the Skeena Region, each with tremendous, unique habitat values. These assessments, including evaluation of the ecological attributes and issues specific to each property, and botanical surveys on select properties, guide activity planning for ongoing land management.

Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, with contact information was posted on properties where appropriate. This serves to demarcate boundaries to protect habitat values from inappropriate public usage, and to provide the public with the means to contact a land manager to discuss management concerns and issues.

Land Act S. 17 Conservation Lands within the Bulkley Valley were prioritized for abandoned barb wire fence clipping to reduce wildlife entrapment and injury. The work was completed prior to snowfall in the fall of 2015. An initiative is underway to roll the S.17 reserves into a Wildlife Management Area to ensure future HCTF/Conservation Land funding eligibility and long term certainty of conservation designation.

Ongoing site restoration work took place with the Toodienia/Hubert Hill acquisition property under the leadership and supervision of Dr. Sybille Haeussler.

Copies of 2015/16 field reports are attached for HCTF records.

Region: **Skeena**

Photographs:


1. **Alice Arm** – Highly productive estuary and grizzly bear habitat assessed for conservation concerns. Bird community inventory conducted and reported on.


2. **Kitsumkalum Lake – Nelson River** – property assessed for habitat values, public usage, and management needs. Note that degraded bracken fern community is improving (2014 on left; 2015 on right).

3. **Lakelse River** – property assessed for management needs; recreational trail restrictions and etiquette signage installed; stewardship partners engaged.

4. **Nadina River Valley – Owen Lake** – property assessed for safety and conservation issues; signage maintained as needed.

Region: Northeast

Ecological Significance of the Region:

The Northeast Region of British Columbia is located between the Rocky Mountain foothills and the Alberta Plains.

This region consists of the Peace River and Liard River drainages of the Arctic watershed, featuring plateaus, plains, prairies, and lowlands lying east of the Rocky Mountains. Areas at higher altitudes are poorly drained, resulting in extensive muskeg areas. The region is characterised by boreal forest with critical wetlands and lakes interspersed throughout.

Since the 1950's, the Northern Region has experienced rapid development of oil and natural gas resources, resulting in increased fragmentation of this landscape. A number of Class 1 wetlands provide critical habitat for numerous waterfowl.

The Northeast Region contains 6 Conservation Land complexes owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Summary Statement of Regional Investment:

In 2015-16 $35,150.00 was allocated to 6 project areas in the Northeast, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

Project Highlights:

$6,203.00 invested in the Boundary Lake conservation area for property inspection, management of invasive plants, maintenance of water control structures, and maintenance of property signage.

$6,461.00 invested in the Comstock Marsh conservation area for property inspection, management of invasive plants, and maintenance of water control structures. Boundary signage was installed and public access areas maintained for safety.

$4,050.00 invested in the Dunlevy Creek conservation area for property inspection, sign maintenance, and removal of forest ingrowth in select areas to maintain elk foraging habitat.

$2,520.00 invested in the Fort St. John Potholes conservation area for property inspection, maintenance of water control structures, and property boundary signage.

$11,775.00 invested in the McQueen Slough conservation area for property inspections, management of invasive plants, and maintenance of water control structures. Boardwalks and public facilities were maintained for safety. This conservation area hosts elementary school children annually as an outdoor learning area.

$4,141.00 invested in the Worth Marsh conservation area for property inspections, assessment of invasive plants, and maintenance of property boundary signage and public access points.

Conservation Outcomes:

The 2015-16 field season resulted in a wide range of critical land management needs being addressed on conservation lands in the Northeast Region. These activities, including habitat restoration and maintenance of public facilities and structures, ensure that habitat values are maintained or enhanced, and that public access to these conservation lands is safe and appropriate.

Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, with contact information was posted on properties where appropriate. This serves to demarcate boundaries to protect habitat values from inappropriate public usage, and to provide the public with the means to contact a land manager to discuss management concerns and issues.

Property assessments, including evaluation of the ecological attributes and issues specific to each property, form the basis for activity planning for the following field seasons.

Region: **Northeast**

Photographs:

1. **Dunlevy Creek** –Elk foraging habitat maintained through the removal of forest ingrowth.

2. **Fort St. John Potholes** – Property assessed for habitat values and management needs. Water control structure maintained to sustain optimal water levels in this important wetland complex.

3. **McQueen Slough** – property assessed for management needs; boardwalk and public facilities maintained. Boundary signage and water control structure maintained. Invasive plants (Canada thistle and sow thistle) treated.

4. **Comstock Marsh** – property assessed for management needs, informational signage installed; invasive plants (Canada thistle) managed, access points and water control structure maintained.

Final Status Report to The Nature Trust of BC

Contract No: 2015-24
Project: Provision of Conservation Lands information and data management
Dates: November 25, 2015 - March 15, 2016

1. Review, canvass regions/partners, and work with GeoBC to update MS Access Conservation Lands Database (CLD) and related Conservation Lands (CL) Geodatabase; compare with file records and Tantalis and correct inconsistencies (e.g. including any changes from Northeast reserve review).

This is ongoing work in collaboration with regional offices.

2. Update and convey information needed by GeoBC to undertake updated extraction and reconciliation between the CLD, Tantalis and the CL Geodatabase. Due to substantive errors in the data extraction run by GeoBC in 2014, the process needs to be run again (subject to availability/capacity of GeoBC)

Updates and corrections were compiled and submitted. A series of scenarios were constructed and implemented to test the accuracy of the extraction and comparison processes, and they seemed to work appropriately. A second full extraction was performed; however, GeoBC did not provide the resulting updates or the extraction comparison information in time for a quality assurance review on this contract.

3. Work with GeoBC to correct lease property boundaries based on data provided by The Nature Trust of BC (TNTBC) and confirm or amend process for future lease boundary data capture and delineation from Tantalis and/or NGO database. Requires discussions with GeoBC, Crown Land Registry staff and (TNTBC/DUC) spatial data expert.

TNT identified several hundred parcels of concern. Investigations and subsequent advice from GeoBC/Tantalis mapping staff indicated that most of the differences were accounted for by a "shift" in the different underlying fabrics of the NGO and the Tantalis layers, and by different policies and practices for updating boundaries in response to water erosion. A provincial process is underway to reconcile those differences, but GeoBC/Tantalis staff advised that this could well be five years away. TNT sites of concern were therefore prioritized based on the nature and extent of the

shape differences. Investigations of approximately 20 priority sites found that roughly half were incorrect in the NGO layer, and half incorrect in the Tantalis layer. The TNT contractor is following up to correct the NGO layer, and I submitted a list of requests for corrections to GeoBC Tantalis specialist Scott MacPhail. This work requires follow-up, and more of the lease sites should be investigated.

4. Work with GeoBC and Crown Land Registry staff to determine whether the WMA layer should continue to be maintained in Tantalis and the CL Geodatabase or exclusively in CL Geodatabase.

It was determined that the WMA layer in Tantalis should be retired; however, there is an issue of concern about the Creston Valley WMA, which is not administered by the CLP, and could "disappear." GeoBC reportedly submitted a request for retiring the WMA layer, but that should be followed up.

5. Organize and rationalize conservation lands share drives (for Victoria and regions) including securing permissions to enable read/write access to specific subfolders.

A new, site-based folder system was established that mimics the hard copy filing system, and subfolders were created for every administered site. Information from various electronic archives were then consolidated and integrated into the new site-based system. A number of large, more general administrative folders still require rationalization, including ensuring that all the old and most recent WMA-related maps and regulations are properly stored.

6. Prepare updated summary guide to CL information/data.

Four of the five guides to the conservation lands were fully updated and edited, and the fifth was partially edited. A high-level one-page summary of the information and data sources was created. The guide to authorizations requires more work.

7. Solicit suggestions from regions/partners for CL project news/stories suitable for web posting or inclusion in an electronic newsletter. Prepare 2 or 3 short summaries with related images, and/or links.

A story was researched, written, passed through regional review, and published in "The Dirt" intra-government newsletter.

8. Consolidate/update vision, mission, and goals for the CL program for review/input and confirmation by key program contacts/partners.

No work was performed on this task; it remains a priority.

9. Identify components of CL program policy framework, including proposed draft Table of Contents (aligned with vision, mission, goals) and considering CL Management Issues Summary from 2014.

See task (11) below.

10. Initiate review and identification of BCParks policies potentially applicable to CLs (directly or with modification), working initially with West Coast region/Vancouver Island Conservation Land Management Program (VICLMP). This is to include review of previous paper prepared for BCParks.

See task (11) below.

11. Prepare 2-3 new draft priority CL policies working initially with West Coast region/VICLMP for subsequent circulation to other CL region contacts/management partners.

This includes tasks (9) and (10). Approximately ten new draft policy documents were created. One draft was circulated to regional offices that had identified that topic as a high priority for policy development. One regional office committed to helping develop it and two other new draft policy documents, but did not do so in time for this contract. This task likely requires a new approach. Perhaps one key person with knowledge of management, compliance and enforcement issues should be specifically contracted to assist in drafting more fully developed policies, in order to help prompt regional offices to invest more in the effort themselves.

12. Identify key components of a CL communications/public relations strategy to align with mission/goals.

No work was performed on this task. It remains a priority. However, completing the online, interactive map and descriptions of administered conservation lands will help with the communications effort -- see task (13) below.

13. Undertake general review of web content and identify required updates to information and linkages. Work with web expert to complete updates and continue work on web spatial mash-up (as for WMAs) for other administered conservation lands, including associated basic attribute data/descriptions.

The website was reviewed and updated. Web spatial mash-up specifications were created and then the program was developed by another contractor. The program can be made live when site descriptions are provided. The O&M summaries from regions were used to develop short descriptions for approximately one-half of the administered sites. These summaries should be completed, sent to regions for review, sent to ministry communications for review, and then posted.

14. Solicit region/partner input to update management plan/objectives tracking document and store any related plan documents that are submitted on share drive.

Input was solicited and received from several regions, and integrated. Some regions have been more responsive than others. This work should be ongoing.

15. Review and modify document entitled 'Revitalizing the Conservation Lands Program' for potential input from key program staff/partners and/or potential use in a program meeting.

No work was performed on this task. It remains a priority.

16. Identify and where possible, undertake modifications to the CLD database structure and the Geodatabase (with GeoBC) to improve information and reporting capacity (e.g. financial fields, naming conventions) and update exported spreadsheets.

Spreadsheets were updated and the folders with them were rationalized. Workarounds were developed to input the current assessed values into the "Comments" field of the "Tax Info" tab, and generate a spreadsheet that includes both this and the "Acquisition Contributions" information. Available data was entered for acquisition contributions. BC Assessment should be used to identify current assessed values, and that data should be entered. Once the data is in, a spreadsheet can be developed to more easily provide the priority automated reporting functions.

17. Where requested, assist with review of GeoBC spreadsheets identifying FLNRO interests/tenures (excluding Land Act and Range Act) overlapped by administered conservation lands. Identify potentially relevant interests and revenue or related program and financial contacts required to confirm. Summarize progress.

All of the spreadsheets were streamlined to include only the relevant administered lands.

18. Undertake other related tasks identified by the contract monitor.

Assistance with meeting preparation and attendance at meetings.

19. Prepare final report upon completion of contract outlining progress on above items and to meet HCTF reporting requirements. Include brief description of work remaining and recommended future needs including any related feedback from regions/partners.

As above.