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# BC/NTBC Joint Conservation Land Management Program (Wildlife O&M)

HCTF Project #0-451

Regional Summary Reports  
2020-21



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# West Coast Region

**Region:** West Coast

**Ecological Significance of the Region:**

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 Coast 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	Buttertubs Marsh
Cluxewe Estuary	Cowichan Estuary
Dudley Marsh	Filberg Marsh
Kingcome Estuary	Lazo Marsh
Nanaimo Estuary	Orel Lake
Englishman River (PQWMA)	Salmon River Elk Reserve
Salmon River Estuary	Asseek Estuary
Somenos Marsh	Kumdis Slough
Willow Creek	Bella Coola Estuary
Koeye Estuary	Quatse WMA
Tofino Mudflats WMA	

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 the Kingcome Estuary more than 110 conservation properties have been secured protecting over 15,000 ha of critical fish and wildlife habitat along with rare ecosystems.

**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

In 2019-2020, \$134,510 was invested by HCTF in the West Coast Region. This funding was matched by over \$2.2 million dollars in partner cash contributions as well as \$200,000 in in-kind contributions by volunteer groups, local governments and First Nations.

**Project Highlights:**

- \$11,952 at the Willow Creek Conservation Area removing an old bridge site that was deemed to be unsafe for the public and causing instream fish habitat issues. The area will now be restored.
- \$11,255 at the Nanaimo River Estuary as part of a large Coastal Restoration Fund project that removed the final 1km of berms and dikes that were impacting the natural estuarine process of the estuary. This work included the creation of new distributary channels, riparian restoration, placement of interpretive signs and improved visitor facilities in terms of trails and fencing.
- \$12,613 at the Parksville Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management area to support ongoing restoration works at the Englishman River Estuary, installation of new boundary and regulatory signs, invasive species inventory and removal, ongoing work to address trespass and encroachment concerns, and work to implement a foreshore evaluation framework for coastal projects within the WMA.
- \$4,595 at the Quatse Wildlife Management Area to support estuary monitoring and restoration work in partnership with the Kwakiutl First Nation. Major restorative works in 2020/21 included: breaching Goodspeed Road via a 20m breach; 20,000m<sup>2</sup> of restored tidal circulation; 120m distributary channel constructed; 500m<sup>2</sup> of LWD installed; creation of 1000m<sup>2</sup> of intertidal bench habitat.
- \$2,375 to support regional initiatives such as compliance and enforcement coordination, coordination of permitting, review of conservation land regulations, and finalization of foreshore evaluation framework.
- \$12,934 at Lazo Marsh NE Comox Wildlife Management to remove invasive species, conduct danger tree assessments and removals, maintain infrastructure and install new boundary signage.
- \$11,332 at Cowichan Estuary Conservation Area to support restoration work being completed in partnership with the Cowichan Tribes, on-going species at risk restoration



projects focused on Short-eared Owls, annual farm plans, dike inspection and maintenance, invasive species removal and viewing platform replacement/upgrade.

**Conservation Outcomes:**

Key conservation outcomes for the West Coast region include:

- Removal of over 1km of dikes/berms in the Nanaimo Estuary representing 5,708m<sup>3</sup> of fill and restoring/enhancing habitat to over 100 acres of the estuary; restoration and enhancement of the Quatse Estuary via breaching of causeway bisecting estuary.
- Invasive species control measures taken on approximately 12 conservation lands representing a total treatment area of 5.5 ha.
- Restorative actions including planting of native trees, plants and shrubs on over 7ha of estuarine and riparian habitat at S'amunu WMA, Englishman River Estuary and the Salmon River Estuary.
- 65km of coastline re-surveyed and inventoried for spartina with 990kg removed.
- Increasing monitoring and inventory work at several conservation areas with focus on estuary resiliency, water quality, migratory and breeding birds, invertebrates, and salmonids; updated habitat maps and relative sea level rise projections for 15 estuaries.
- On-going partnerships with First Nations, Local Governments, Stewardship Groups, and Fish and Game Clubs



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# South Coast Region

**Region: South Coast**

**Ecological Significance of the Region:**

The majority of the 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, Roberts Bank, and South Arm Marshes Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) 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 23 Conservation Land complexes, administered regionally, including a number of properties owned by The Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC).

**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

In 2020-2021 \$91,580 was invested in 19 conservation land complexes in the South Coast region, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives. Significant investments were made to eradicate invasive species, maintain infrastructure and public access, remove rubbish, and identify ecological restoration opportunities from these conservation lands. A significant investment was also made to support the ongoing research into the cause of approximately 260 hectares of marsh loss throughout the Fraser estuary conservation lands. Additionally, local stakeholders and conservation partners were engaged to identify opportunities to facilitate the ecological resilience of tidal marshes in the Fraser estuary conservation lands with anticipated increases in sea level.

In October 2017, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), NTBC, and the

Canadian Wildlife Service to initiate the South Coast Conservation Land Management Program (SCCLMP). Modelled off the successful West Coast Conservation Land Management Program (WCCLMP), the goal of the SCCLMP is to provide a more collaborative and integrated approach to the management of conservation lands for the benefit of fish, wildlife, species at risk, and their habitats. In 2020/2021 this program continued to leverage resources to apply a strategic focus to the management of Wildlife Management Areas in the South Coast. A full-time Coordinator leads the partnership, including overseeing the South Coast HCTF Conservation Lands O&M budget and expanding the capacity of the program by soliciting additional funds and promoting community stewardship throughout conservation lands. In 2020/2021 a full-time Field Operations Lead was hired to lead conservation land operation and maintenance activities, in particular starting the SCCLMP Invasive Plant Management Program. HCTF O&M funding continues to support the activities of the SCCLMP partnership program.

In 2017/2018 Fisheries and Oceans Canada selected three projects within South Coast Conservation Lands to receive significant investment from the Coastal Restoration Fund over the next five years. One of the main goals of each of these projects is to increase fish passage through river training structures and other infrastructure throughout estuaries. Funding includes \$1.9 million to the Squamish River Watershed Society for a project in the Skwelwil'em Squamish Estuary WMA, \$2.0 million to DUC for a project in the South Arm Marshes WMA, and \$2.7 million to Raincoast Conservation Foundation for a project in the Sturgeon Bank and Roberts Bank WMAs. Throughout 2020/2021 all three projects have been engaging stakeholders, conducting project planning activities, and monitoring fish utilization of the respective WMAs. In March 2020 DUC constructed three breaches in the Woodward Dam to facilitate fish passage and transportation of freshwater and sediments to the tidal marshes of the South Arm Marshes WMA. The SCCLMP Field Operations Lead led DUC's 2020/2021 fish monitoring program, and will continue in 2021/2022. Over the next year the SCCLMP Coordinator will continue work with each organization to help make each project a success and to look for opportunities to support ongoing conservation land management activities.

### **Project Highlights:**

**\$7,225** invested in Bert Brink WMA for property inspection, invasive plant management, rubbish removal, and site preparation for upcoming ecological restoration project.

**\$7,111** invested in Boundary Bay WMA for property inspections, rubbish removal, invasive plant management, sign maintenance, inventory & assessment of signage, and engagement with local stakeholders for integrated planning.

**\$6,330** invested in Camp Slough Conservation Area for property inspection, invasive species management, nesting box maintenance, vegetation maintenance, ecological restoration, and rubbish removal.

**\$3,489** invested in Forslund-Watson Conservation Area to plan future wetland restoration projects, vegetation maintenance, determine ecological restoration options, and invasive plant management (including implementing Best Management Practices for eradicating invasive Caucasian wingnut tree).

**\$17,691** invested in the Pitt-Addington Marsh WMA to assess land management needs, clear and maintain water control infrastructure, maintain informational signage, maintenance of public access trails, purchase of materials for volunteer-led construction/installation of duck nest boxes, purchase of vegetation maintenance equipment, invasive plant management, and restoration planning.

**\$8,279** invested in Sturgeon Bank WMA and Roberts Bank WMA to support ongoing research into the cause of marsh recession throughout the WMAs. These WMAs also benefit from stewardship of, and proactive action by, the Cities of Richmond and Delta with respect to management of invasive species, vegetation management and removal of garbage along the dyke trail that is adjacent to the WMA.

**\$5,420** invested in Serpentine WMA for tower and trail maintenance, garbage pickup and removal, vegetation maintenance, and restoration planning.

**\$6,302** invested in South Arm Marshes WMA for site visits and inspections, maintenance of trails, boardwalk repair, and inventory & assessment of signage.

**\$6,568** invested in the Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis WMA for property inspection, rubbish removal, invasive plant management, maintenance of property information signage, and review of current management plan.

**\$1,575** invested in the Silverhope Creek Conservation Area for inspection for land management needs, public information sign installation, rubbish removal, and boundary identification.

**\$1,675** invested in the Wells Sanctuary Conservation Area for property inspections, invasive plant management, rubbish removal, and signage.

**\$2,558** invested in the Chilliwack River Conservation Area for property inspection, rubbish removal, invasive plant management, and maintenance of property information signage.

**Conservation Outcomes:**

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; approximately 24 hectares of conservation lands were directly restored or enhanced in 2020/2021. 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.

**Photographs**



Bert Brink WMA – Field crew surveying for invasive plants and ecological attributes.



Camp Slough – Trimming vegetation along boundary to facilitate fence maintenance; barred owl and grey squirrel on nesting box.





Pitt-Addington Marsh WMA – brushing along trails and infrastructures.



Silverhope Creek – rubbish removal with volunteers from the BC Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.





Wells Sanctuary – Removing yellow flag iris from creek.



Chilliwack River – information signage being installed on property boundary.



Roberts Bank WMA – Measuring sediment elevation at long-term monitoring station for marsh recession research.



Pitt-Addington Marsh WMA – clearing vegetation from endangered Western Painted Turtle nesting beach



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# Thompson Okanagan Region

**Region:** Thompson Okanagan

**Ecological Significance of the Region:**

The Thompson Okanagan Region has a dry, continental climate, as it lies in the rain shadow of the Coast and Cascade Mountain ranges. Vegetation varies from Engelmann spruce and lodgepole pine at subalpine elevations, 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 and Nicola landscapes in the north and east of the region vary from the Cariboo Mountains in Wells Gray Provincial Park to rolling grasslands and the river valleys of the North and South Thompson Rivers that merge in Kamloops and reach the Fraser River in Lytton. The region also extends beyond into Lillooet and the surrounding Coast Mountains through the Bridge River valley which flows from snowfields in the Coastal Mountains and joins the Fraser River near Lillooet. The landscape has more than 300 lakes, sage-dressed hills, rolling grasslands, 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 Okanagan portion of the region, especially in the south, contains large numbers of unique flora and fauna, as it is the northern extension of the Columbia Plateau. Analysis has shown that the South Okanagan is both 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 (Scudder 2006).

Human development over the past century has resulted in dramatic reductions in native habitat. Grasslands, and the antelope-brush ecosystem in particular, 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 1950s 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 of British Columbia has been working in the Okanagan area since 1971. To date, 19 properties have been secured with the help of many funding partners, totalling over 4,250 hectares. These conservation holdings are particularly contiguous, providing habitat corridors on a landscape scale.



**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

A total of **\$91,203** of Wildlife O&M money was invested in the Thompson Okanagan Region in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, and this greatly assisted the conservation partners in addressing key land management objectives.

**Project Highlights:**

- **\$18,567** was invested at Antlers Saddle Complex with an additional \$20,000 in provincial funding contributed. This funding was used to install the third and final phase of exclusion fencing (0.5 km) along the southern boundary of ACQ2 to keep cattle out and deter off-road vehicle use, adding to the first two phases constructed in 2018/19 and 2019/20 using HCTF O&M and partner funds. Other activities on this property in 2020/21 included joint wetland monitoring and development of interpretive signage components with Penticton Indian Band, and installation of cattle guards and gates.
- **\$9,118** was invested at McTaggart-Cowan/ nsək'lniw't WMA to address impacts associated with the Christie Mountain Fire, which burned approximately 26% of the WMA. This funding was used to purchase and install wildlife cameras and signage to facilitate use monitoring, boundary delineation and identification of restoration areas. An additional **\$3,657** was invested at the Skaha Lake Eastside property, located within the WMA, to fund site visits, invasive species management including survey and mechanical removal, fence and sign installation at primary access points, and secondary trail closures and trail remediation. A further \$21,000 in provincial funding was used for a post-wildlife impact assessment based on Indigenous science.
- **\$6,344** was invested at Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA on maintenance activities in Year 2 including additional road deactivation, gate installation, fence maintenance and garbage removal. Work for strategic placement of road deactivation boulders was also done, with additional rock boulders purchased, delivered and placed to enhance road deactivation and to close off newly built trails.
- **\$2,306** was invested at Ginty's Pond Lease with an additional \$35,000 in partnership contribution to support wetland restoration at this site, including biological constraints analysis, water level monitoring, restoration design, permit application, and cultural assessment.
- **\$5,250** was invested at the Vaseux Lake-Schneider property. Primary tasks included site visits; working with FLNRORD Wildlife Biologist, Backcountry Hunter and Anglers and WildSheep Society of BC and South Okanagan Sportsmen's Association; updating and implementing conifer thinning (prescription) to improve/restore movement corridors for Bighorn sheep; planning for invasive plant management to protect this high integrity grassland habitat; continuation of the photographic monitoring program; review and

discussions with RDOS staff and contractors regarding monitoring wells and leachate control plans.

- **\$3,062** was invested at Kilpoola Lake (LEA) property. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive species management including surveys and mechanical treatment; and a Property Condition Evaluation (partner contribution).
- **\$4,375** was invested at Salmon Arm Bay property. Primary tasks included working with Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to carry out IP work including a cooperative manual weed pull of Himalayan Balsam. 3km of shoreline was surveyed and monitored after high water mark washed various debris (boat dock, tires, etc.) ashore.
- **\$4,812** was invested at the Vaseux Lake – East, West, North complex. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive plant management including surveys and mechanical control; installation of 100m rail fence and informative signage to control and manage public access to the conservation land as well as protect and inform the pictograph site; and continuation of the photographic monitoring program.
- **\$3,937** was invested at the Vaseux Lake – Emery Franmar complex. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive plant management including surveys and mechanical control, this included coordinating a Yellow Flag Iris Workshop with Dr. Catherine Tarasoff, funded by South Okanagan Conservation Fund and NTBC (partner contribution); and continuation of the photographic monitoring program.
- **\$3,237** 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.
- **\$3,237** was invested at the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch. Primary tasks included site visits; invasive species management including survey and mechanical removal, working with the Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Species Society and National Research Council and other stakeholders to continue an area based pilot project; fence repairs; bat counts and out building surveys to start a pilot project (NTBC partner contribution); and continuation of the photographic monitoring program

### **Conservation Outcomes:**

Each of the conservation lands in the Thompson Okanagan Region has distinct management needs and objectives that reflect the unique landscape and ecology of the area. Numerous conservation outcomes were achieved on these lands in 2020-2021 using Conservation Lands O&M funding and over **225 ha** of land were directly or indirectly restored or enhanced through restoration activities and fencing. Many of these outcomes continue to build upon the efforts and investments of previous years. Partner contributions to conservation land managed were high in 2020-2021, with over \$160,000 in additional provincial, federal and partner funding attracted to the Conservation Lands Program in the TOR. In particular, these funds facilitated collaborative management and planning projects with Indigenous communities.

A key pressure in this region in 2020-2021 was the 2020 Christie Mountain Wildfire, which burned approximately 26% of McTaggart-Cowan/ nsək'lniw't WMA. Assessing and managing the impacts of that fire and suppression activities continues to be a high priority for this region. The largest single investment of HCTF Conservation Lands O&M in the TOR this year was again at Antler's Saddle Complex. Building upon substantial Conservation O&M investments in previous years and key partnerships with Range program, the local rancher and Penticton Indian Band, the third and final phase of boundary fencing was completed, along with installation of cattle guards and gates. Of this conservation land, 215 ha (80%) is now completely excluded from untenured cattle grazing impacts, resulting in preservation of wildlife habitat values including ungulate winter range. This property was heavily impacted by both the 2017 Finlay Creek Wildfire and 2018 Mt. Eneas Wildfire; additional restoration and enhancement works were targeted towards rehabilitation of the fire guards built as part of fire suppression activities, including prescription, invasive weed management and native planting.

The Nature Trust of BC land management staff worked with various partners to maximize O&M funding at eligible conservation sites. Invasive plant management continued to play a key role in the conservation land management efforts for 2020-21 season. Surveys and mechanical control in high priority areas were undertaken across the region. Other partnerships including working with Region 8 Wildlife biologists, Wildsheep Society of BC, Backcountry Hunter and Anglers and South Okanagan Sportsmen's Association to improve movement corridors, habitat utilization and connectivity for Bighorn sheep, by reducing forest (conifer) ingrowth. Approximately 1.5 hectares of habitat was treated and restored, with plans for future work to continue once COVID-19 health and safety restrictions are lifted.



## **Photographs**

### 1. Wetland monitoring at Antlers Saddle Complex.



### 2. New gate installation at Dewdrop-Rosseau Creek WMA.





3. Wildfire assessment by helicopter at McTaggart-Cowan/ nsək'niw't WMA with related signage installation at Skaha Lake Eastside Lease.



4. Inventory and assessment in support of wetland restoration design at Ginty's Pond Lease.





5. Invasive Plant Control (Baby's Breath) at Okanagan Falls Biodiversity Ranch.



6. Information sign installed on newly built rail fence at important archaeological site at Vaseux Lake – East, West, North Lease.



7. Yellow Flag Iris control/workshop at Vaseux Lake – Emery Franmar Lease.



8. Conservation Youth Crew participated in a bird banding day at Vaseux Lake - photo shows a Species at Risk (Yellow-breasted Chat).





9. Safe burning of conifer thinning piles to improve/restore movement corridors for Bighorn sheep at Vaseux Lake - Schneider Lease.





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# Kootenay Boundary Region

**Region:** Kootenay/Boundary

**Ecological Significance of the Region:**

The Kootenay region is world renowned for its scenic beauty and biological diversity. Forest, shrub, grassland and wetland ecosystems provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species, including many species at risk.

From the heights of the Rocky Mountain Range, there are vantage points where you can overlook the entire expanse of the East Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia. The western horizon, viewed from these vantage points, is profiled by the Purcell Mountain range which is separated from the Rocky Mountains by an enormous valley known as the Rocky Mountain Trench. Two great rivers begin here; the Kootenay flowing south through dry grasslands, with signs of historic wildfires, and the Columbia flowing north through a series of long valley-bottom lakes and lush wetlands. This great river eventually swings south at Boat Encampment and continues south between the Monashee and Selkirk Mountain ranges in the West Kootenay and into the state of Washington at Waneta. Another important river, the Elk, begins its journey in the eastern Rocky Mountains and winds its way along towering cottonwoods to join the Kootenay immediately south of the small community of Baynes Lake.

The geographic diversity of the Kootenay landscape along with wide variations in climate has created conditions and habitats that support rare plant life, productive aquatic systems, and abundant populations of elk, deer, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain goat and moose. Such abundant wildlife naturally attracts predators and consequently, wide-ranging carnivores are still common in the Kootenay's. Additionally, over 270 species of birds make use of the region, many on their migratory travels along the Pacific flyway.

From a rare species perspective, the grasslands, dry forests, montane forests, scattered wetlands, and cottonwood habitats in the Kootenay region provide unique habitats that support rare species such as the American badger, Swainson's hawk, Northern leopard frog and Lewis' woodpecker.

However, the low elevation valleys of the Kootenay's, which provide some of the most important habitat for a wide spectrum of wildlife, continue to be developed and attract increased levels of human settlement. In turn, this creates additional pressures on the landscape and impacts wildlife habitat and biodiversity values. Fortunately, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development (FLNRORD) along with The Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC) have worked for decades to conserve ecologically significant habitats within the region. As a result, dozens of properties have been secured and, when combined with properties conserved by other land trusts and agencies, have resulted in a significant area of the Kootenay landscape being conserved in perpetuity.

**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

In 2020-21, \$104,300.00 was invested into 22 NTBC and FLNRORD conservation property complexes in the Kootenay/Boundary region, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

The funding was used for a wide variety of operations and maintenance activities, the highlights of which are outlined below.

### **Project Highlights:**

Project highlights for the Kootenay/Boundary region during the 2020-21 year, include:

- \$20,794.09 was invested into the **Bummers Flats** Conservation Complex through a variety of activities in 2020/21. Invasive plant infestations (terrestrial and aquatic) were mechanically treated by the FLNRORD staff, NTBC staff, and staff from the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC). In particular, an innovative approach to invasive plant management on a levee in the Bummers wetlands was initiated. FLNRORD contracted a local consultant to design and implement a multi-year pollinator project, which aims to re-introduce plants important to pollinator species, in a competitive/coexistence relationship with the current invasive plant species. 2020 was Year 1 of 5 in this project, which included study design, site layout, and seeding of the project site. HCTF funds helped to support an educational work event, as well as some project supplies and materials. In kind support was contributed through FLNRORD and NTBC staff time, as well as financial support through provincial Together for Wildlife funding. Longer term funding for the project has been conditionally approved through a Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program grant.

Another exciting project at the Bummers Flats Conservation Complex was the development and implementation of a Habitat Enhancement Plan (HEP). Working off of the 2019-20 funded project that identified/field-marked sites in need of treatment, a new HEP was developed for the Cherry Creek North parcel, which aims to improve ungulate forage, promote cross valley movement, and protect the site from a potential stand replacing wildfire. With financial support from HCTF and Provincial Together for Wildlife funding, NTBC was also able to hire a contractor to complete 8.8ha of treatment, following the HEP objectives.

- \$9,794.04 of HCTF funding was invested into the **Gold Creek Game Reserve (Strauss)** Conservation property in 2020/21, where funding went towards the development and finalization of an Ecosystem Restoration Plan (ERP), which has objectives targeted towards improving habitat values for overwintering ungulates on the property. In preparation for a potential treatment, NTBC staff have marked reserve zones, habitat features, leave trees, and potential candidate trees for fungal inoculation (wildlife tree

creation), to ensure these features are not impacted during treatment. Other activities included fenceline maintenance/repair, as well as invasive plant treatments.

- \$11,723.96 of HCTF funding was invested into the **Grave Prairie (Big Ranch)** Conservation Complex in 2020/21. HCTF financial contributions went to support the large 5-year Big Ranch Ecosystem Enhancement Project (BREEP), which is primarily funded through a Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) Ecosystem Enhancement Program grant. The project proponents are the Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association (SDFWA), who are working closely with NTBC and FLNRORD for project guidance, approval and professional support. The BREEP aims to complete forest, grassland, and wetland enhancement activities over the next 5 years, through thinning, planting, fertilization, enhancement, invasive species management, and educational activities. Activities completed in 2020-21 included wildlife tree creation (inoculation), thinning prescription development/layout, and the design/purchase of fertilizer in preparation for 2021-22 grassland fertilization project implementation.
- \$8220.00 was invested into the **Wycliffe** Conservation Property Complex. A much-needed parking area was completed at the “Buttes” trailhead. The new parking area consolidates vehicles to an isolated area, as a way to protect surrounding areas from environmental damage. In cooperation with BC Hydro, the parking area was created within the hydro corridor, which was already impacted from unrestricted vehicle access. The new parking perimeter has been protected with 80m of new post and rail fencing. It was also graded and gravelled to enhance longevity.
- \$4345.91 was directed to the **Slocan Lake** Conservation Property in 2020-21. The majority of funding was used to collect baseline inventory information for the complex, in preparation for the development of a Management Direction Statement (MDS). A contractor (registered professional forester) was hired to collect baseline information, including vegetation community mapping, forest health information, expected natural processes, etc. The contractor also worked with NTBC to determine the need for any potential future restoration/enhancement activities. Additionally, NTBC staff spent a significant amount of time taking inventory of property features, including access trails, trespass issues, danger/wildlife trees, etc. A game camera and multiple property boundary signs were also installed in 2020.
- \$6,500 was directed to the **Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area** in the 2020-21 season. HCTF O&M contributions went towards the mowing of vegetation along water control dikes, sign installation, management of water levels, invasive species removal, and annual inspections of water control structures.



- \$9,000 of HCTF funding was allocated to the chemical treatment of invasive species throughout HCTF O&M eligible properties in 2012-21. Chemical herbicide applications were completed on approximately 10 ha, and were recorded and input into the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) database to allow for continued monitoring of infestations and evaluation of management effectiveness over time. An additional approximation of 5ha were mechanically treated by NTBC and FLNRORD staff.

### **Conservation Outcomes:**

Although the 2020-21 field season was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, through the delay of field crews, training, contractor availability, increased public use, etc., the season still resulted in a wide range of critical land management needs being addressed on conservation lands in the Kootenay/Boundary region. These activities included, but were not limited to; infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement, the development of prescriptions, as well as, habitat restoration, monitoring and inventory activities.

Fencelines were assessed and repaired to reduce trespass of livestock and unauthorized motor vehicle use on sensitive conservation properties. Conservation Property Complex boundary signage was installed in key locations throughout the region to inform the public of land ownership and protect the important conservation values that each property possesses.

NTBC and FLNRORD staff continue to apply for funding to supplement HCTF O&M funding on conservation lands in the Kootenay Region. 2020 was a very busy year, as the region was approved for many projects, including two large multi-year projects, inclusive of multiple partners (Wycliffe and Grave Prairie). Additional to the multi-year projects, the Kootenay region was also the successful recipient of provincial Together for Wildlife funding for 6 individual projects on HCTF eligible conservation lands.

Mechanical and chemical invasive plant treatments and re-seeding efforts were undertaken on many properties, intended to restore compromised ecosystems to native vegetative conditions. Significant effort was also directed to assisting in the establishment of healthy native vegetation on recently restored wetlands, including riparian planting, seeding, and exclosure fencing installation and repair. NTBC and FLNRORD continue to trial and assess innovative approaches to invasive plant management in region, including implementing projects such as the Bummer Flats Pollinator Project.

Some funding was also invested into future conservation by undertaking important planning activities, including property assessments, infrastructure inventory, and invasive plant inventories. Results assist in adapting the current 3-year HCTF workplan on Kootenay/Boundary Conservation Properties, and ensuring management activities are meaningful and effective.

Approximately 28.4 hectares of conservation land was restored in 2020-21 with HCTF Operations and Maintenance funding. The area of restored land was calculated through the amount of area treated for invasive plants, area planted/seeded with native vegetation, area treated under the HEP at Bummars Flats, as well as the area that received vegetation removal in the CVWMA.

### **Photographs**



Photos 1&2: NTBC Conservation Field Crew removing old water tower and monitoring Limber Pine seedlings at Columbia Lake East.





Photo 3: NTBC Field Crew installing a wildlife camera on a den site at the Bull River Conservation Property Complex

Photo 4&5: NTBC Conservation Field Crew mechanically treating Canada thistle infestations at the Duncan Flats Conservation Property Complex.





Photo 6: Removal of old metal and trash from the Wigwam Flats Conservation Property Complex

Photo 7: Installation of Clean, Drain, Dry signage at the Columbia Lake West Conservation Property Complex

Photo 8: Danger/Wildlife Tree Assessment - Marsden Face Conservation Property Complex.

Photo 9: Pile burning following restoration work at the Bull River Conservation Property Complex.





Photo 10: NTBC Conservation Field Crew removing purple loosestrife from the Bummer Flats Conservation Property

Photo 11: A machine grading and adding gravel during the creation of the new Wycliffe Conservation Property Complex parking area.

Photo 12: An example of COVID-19 Public Notice signage installed on a kiosk at the Wigwam Flats Conservation Property Complex.



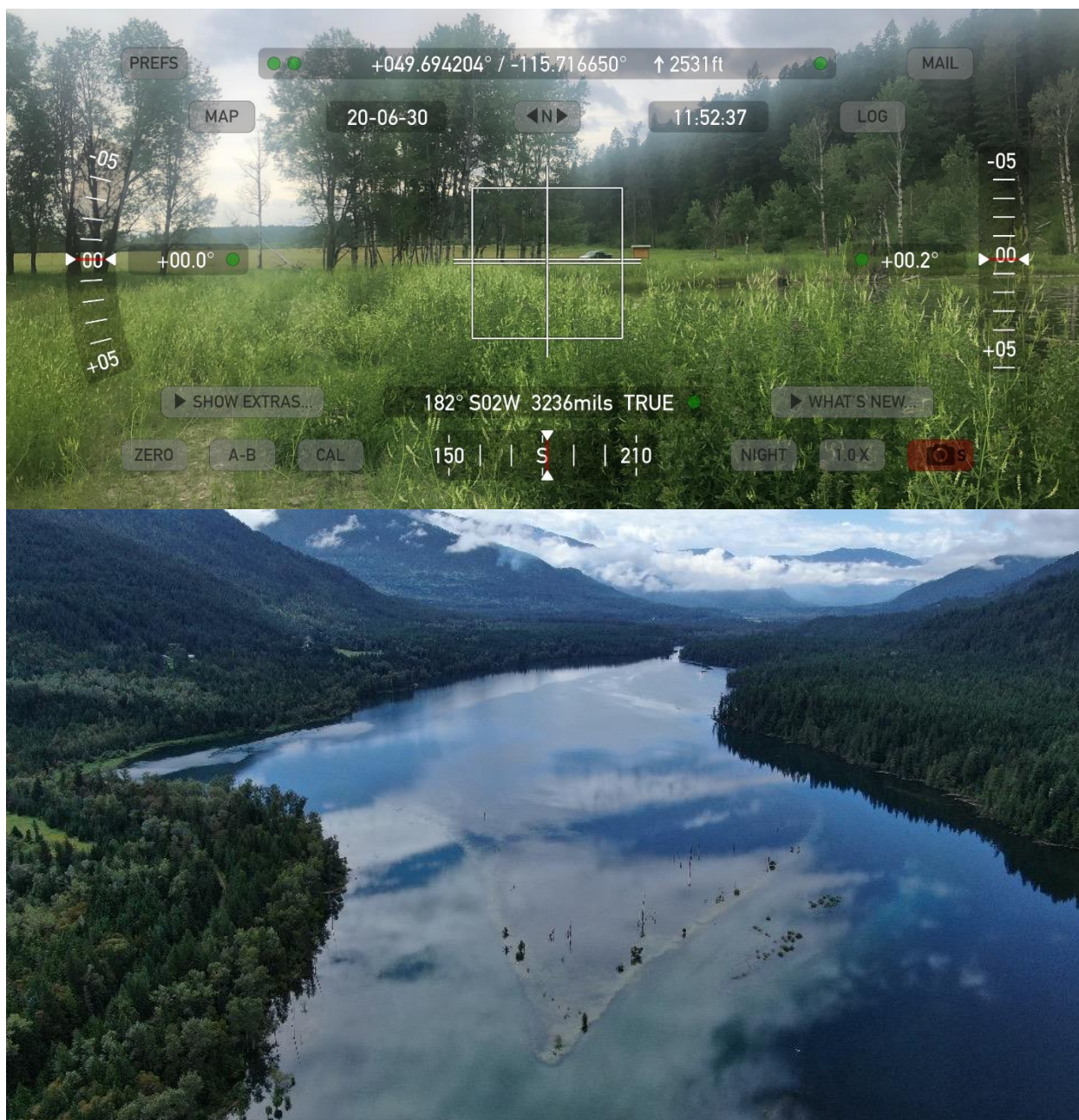


Photo 13: An example of a monitoring photo from a photo plot at the Bummers Flats Conservation Property Complex – George's Pond

Photo 14: A drone photo of the Walter Clough Conservation Property during high water in the spring of 2020- The island is entirely submerged.



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# Cariboo Region

**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 2020-21 \$11,062 was allocated to the 6 properties in the Cariboo, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives, including assessments and maintenance for safety and ecological integrity.

**Project Highlights:**

**\$4,566** was invested in the Chilanko Marsh conservation area to assess the property for safety and ecological concerns. The perimeter fence and signage were inspected and maintained as needed. Trail cameras were purchased to increase our wildlife use knowledge, and to confirm livestock non-compliance in the conservation land. Livestock monitoring flights were conducted for both Chilanko Marsh and Chilcotin Lake & Marshes properties with additional money (\$6,161). An opportunistic bat survey was conducted during one evening over the summer with a number of species noted.

**\$5,416** was invested in the Chilcotin Lake & Marsh conservation area to complete maintenance to the perimeter fence and to assess the property for safety and ecological concerns. Property information signs were installed or repaired as needed. Trail cameras were purchased to increase our wildlife use knowledge, and to confirm livestock non-compliance in the conservation land. Livestock monitoring flights were conducted for both Chilanko Marsh and Chilcotin Lake & Marshes properties with additional money (\$6,161). A portion of the fence was to be rebuilt however this contract was deferred to 2021 as the meadow was flooded.

**\$250** invested in the Dale Lake conservation area to conduct a property assessment for safety and ecological concerns, and maintenance of property information signage.

**\$475** invested in the Tautri Creek conservation area to conduct a property assessment for safety and ecological concerns, and to maintain property information signage.

**\$0** was invested in the Hanceville conservation area, however a large in-kind effort (\$9,000) was undertaken. After our 2017 Wildfires, we needed to rebuild a portion of the fenceline. The Range



Section, Wildfire Crews, and Fence BC spent weeks prepping and getting the site ready for a fencing contractor to build a new fence.

\$0 was invested in the Knife Creek conservation area. Signage was added to the entrance of the conservation land.

### **Conservation Outcomes:**

The 2020-21 field season included a number of land management activities on Conservation Lands within the Cariboo Region.

Fence maintenance at Chilcotin Lake & Marsh and Chilanko Marsh serves to protect sensitive habitat areas from inappropriate use. There is ~3.5km of fence at Chilanko Marsh and ~21km of fence at Chilcotin Lake & Marsh to maintain. Assessments of the ecological attributes and issues specific to each property form the basis for activity planning for the following field seasons.

The last remaining fence at Chilcotin Lake & Marsh was contracted out however due to flooding in the fall the project was put on hold.

The Hanceville property saw a lot of activity to prepare ~ 2.3km of mostly forested fenceline for rebuilding next year.

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.

**Photographs**



1. Chilanko Marsh – Fences maintained to prevent livestock access. Signs installed and repaired.



2. Tautri Creek – Replaced signs damaged by wildfire. Site condition assessment.



3. Chilcotin Lake and Marsh – signs installed at boundaries. Fences inspected for integrity and repaired as required, to prevent livestock access.



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# Skeena Region



**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 2020-21 **\$17,880.00** was allocated to 8 properties in the Skeena, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

**Project Highlights:**

**\$3,800.00** invested in the Alice Arm conservation area for property inspection and manual treatment of invasive plants, especially giant burdock in riparian areas (approximately 7 hectares).

**\$1,425.00** invested in the Kitsumkalum Lake – Nelson River conservation area for property inspection, access and safety evaluation, maintenance of property signage, garbage removal, and monitoring for invasive plants.

**\$713.00** invested in the Lakelse Lake – Mullers Bay conservation area for property inspection, access and safety evaluation, boundary sign maintenance, and shoreline rubbish removal. This property is bisected by a popular recreation access trail.

**\$1,188.00** invested in the Lakelse River conservation area for property inspection, maintenance of trail signs, and monitoring for invasive plants. Meeting with trail stewardship representative was postponed for the year, due to COVID restrictions.

**\$3,017.00** invested in the Nadina River Valley – Owen Lake conservation area for property inspection, and replacement of outdated signage. Invasive plant surveys were conducted by a contractor and manual treatment was completed.

**\$252.00** invested in the Smith Island conservation area. Access to the site (by water only) was hindered this year due to COVID restrictions. Site was monitored visually from off-site. Outdated boundary signs were replaced by a neighbour.

**\$3,500.00** invested in the Hubert Hill conservation area for fence maintenance, invasive plant removal, and habitat restoration.

**\$2,500.00** invested in the Todagin Wildlife Management Area for purchase of automated recording units and trail camera to monitor wildlife usage. Planned on site works for this year were not completed, due to COVID restrictions.

### **Conservation Outcomes:**

The 2020-21 field season resulted in management of a number of Conservation Lands within the Skeena Region, including evaluation of ecological attributes and safety concerns, which guide activity planning for ongoing land management.

Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, with contact information was posted and maintained 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.

Site restoration of Hubert Hill, near Telkwa, is ongoing. Success is being achieved with removal of invasive plants and re-introduction of native species.

In 2020-2021, approximately 12 hectares of conservation land was restored through various activities in the Skeena Region.

### **Photographs**



1. Alice Arm – manual management of invasive plants (giant burdock) in riparian areas.



2. Lakelse Lake – Mullers Bay – Extensive rubbish removed from shoreline. Property is located on a popular recreation lake.





3. Lakelse River – trail stewardship signs maintained. Multi-use recreation trail monitored for invasive plants.





4. Nadina River Valley – Outdated information sign replaced. Invasive plants manually treated.



5. Hubert Hill – native plantings in former thistle patch areas.



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# Omineca Region

**Region: Omineca**

**Ecological Significance of the Region:**

The Omineca Region encompasses a large portion of northern British Columbia, with a diversity of landscapes ranging from the broad flat pine forests of the Central Plateau to the rugged peaks of the central Rocky Mountains. This Region includes the highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies, Mount Robson (3954 m).

The Omineca Region encompasses the headwaters, or portions of the headwaters, of several provincially important rivers, including the: Fraser, Nechako, Pine, Finlay, Parsnip and Stuart. Within the drainages of these rivers lie several regionally important lakes and the Province's largest reservoir, Williston Lake which lies behind the W.A.C. Bennett Dam. The rivers and their tributaries provide spawning grounds for Chinook, Coho, and Sockeye Salmon. Arctic Grayling, White Sturgeon, Rainbow, Bull and Lake Trout, as well as several species of whitefish, suckers, minnows and Burbot, all live within the Omineca Regions lakes and streams. One of the highest valued recreational rainbow trout fisheries is in the Stellako River, which in 2013 became the Omineca Regions first Wildlife Management Area. Clear, cold mountain streams provide necessary habitat for Blue Listed Bull trout in the Omineca and the large meandering Nechako and Fraser Rivers are home to Red Listed White Sturgeon.

Regionally important wetlands, such as those on the Hominka and in the Cranberry Marsh / Starratt WMA, provide much needed rest and refueling stops for a number of migratory birds. Populations of American White Pelicans nest on some of the regions lakes and White Swans winter on several rivers. The northern extent of Sharptailed Grouse range occurs on southwest facing meadows in the southern portion of the region and in the agricultural lands local breeding groups of Long-billed Curlews and Sandhill cranes can be found in the spring.

The largest herds of Mountain Caribou left in the Province reside in the mountains on the eastern side of the region, and in the north populations of Northern Caribou still roam. Throughout the Omineca region there are Moose, Grizzly Bear, Black Bear, Fisher, Marten, Lynx, Wolf, Mountain Goat, and Mule Deer, with local populations of Stone Sheep, Elk and White Tail Deer and Cougar where snow packs are thinner. Rare plant associations, ecosystems and habitats are scattered across the Omineca bolstering regional biological diversity, including the northern extent of Whitebark pine and Douglas fir, and the largest population of Haller's Apple moss in the world as well as the majority of known locations of Crumpled Tar Paper Lichen.

Given the highly diverse and geographically large area that the Omineca region covers it contains relatively few Conservation Lands. Only 6 such areas are administered regionally and they cover a small selection of the habitats that can be found regionally.

**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

In 2020-21 \$29,570.00 was allocated to 6 conservation properties in the Omineca, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

**Project Highlights:**

**\$14,840.00** invested in the Cranberry Marsh / Starratt WMA. Ongoing activities include replacement of signs that are in disrepair, community engagement, trail assessment, minor repair of trail infrastructure, management planning, implementation of invasive plant management plans, and seasonal inspections. FLNRORD contracted Qualified Professionals to complete safety inspections of the viewing towers and design replacement stream crossing structures at three locations along the walking trail. The new stream crossings are anticipated to be constructed in 2021, in partnership with the Village of Valemount. Installation of updated boundary signage, garbage removal from public access points, and invasive plant removal by NWIPC (0.4 ha) was completed.

**\$3994.00** invested in the Stellako River WMA for invasive plant removal by NWIPC (0.035 ha), seasonal inspection, boundary sign replacement, and garbage removal from public access points.

**\$1641.00** invested in the Joanne Lloyd property for seasonal inspections and invasive plant removal by NWIPC (0.16 ha). Communication with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding highway upgrades adjacent to the property will continue until the project is completed in 2021/22. Garbage was removed from public access points; however, removal of a dock that has washed up on the property will have to wait until high water in 2021.

**\$1331.00** invested in the North Nechako Tyee conservation property, to conduct management and safety inspections, monitor for invasive species, and maintain informational signage.

**\$5700.00** invested in the Mount Robson Ranch property for seasonal inspection and maintenance of perimeter signage. Assessment of adjacent industrial activity (forestry and oil & gas) was conducted to ensure no impact to conservation lands. Four wildlife cameras were purchased and installed, and will be maintained, at mineral licks on the property to gain information on wildlife usage.

**\$493.00** invested in the Natasha Boyd property for seasonal inspection, boundary signage installation and pruning of vegetation around signage. Updated informational signage was developed but acquiring images from community partners has not been completed. Anticipate completion and installation of newly developed signage in 2021-22.

**Conservation Outcomes:**

Maintenance of infrastructure, installation of signage, site inspections/visits and trail maintenance were undertaken by The Nature Trust of British Columbia and FLNRORD staff. Fisheries management continues to be a priority at the Stellako River WMA with increased effort from Government being spent. Management Plans for Stellako and Cranberry Marsh / Starratt are in final review. Increased regional capacity has continued to permit additional site visits and improved reporting.



FLNRORD contracted Qualified Professionals to complete safety inspections of the viewing towers and design replacement stream crossing structures at three locations along the walking trail. The new stream crossings are anticipated to be constructed in 2021, in partnership with the Village of Valemound.

Invasive plant management continues to be a focus on priority areas of concern and significant reductions of invasive plants have been achieved at Cranberry marsh, Stellako and Joanne Lloyd. Implementing invasive plant management plans is ongoing, in conjunction with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council.

### **Photographs**



1. Cranberry / Starratt Marsh – Trails and infrastructure assessed. Boundary signage installed and maintained at public access points.



2. Stellako River Wildlife Management Area – Boundary signs installed. Rubbish removed from access points. Property inspected for safety and ecological issues.



3. Mount Robson Ranch –Boundary signs maintained. Property assessed for safety and ecological concerns. Property monitored for wildlife usage.





4. Joanne Lloyd Conservation Area – Property assessed for safety and ecological issues. Rubbish removed from public access areas.



5. Natasha Boyd Conservation Area- Vegetation pruned from around signage for visibility. Property assessed for safety and ecological issues.





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# Northeast Region

**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.

**Summary Statement of Regional Investment:**

In 2020-21 \$37,140 was spent on 6 project areas in the Northeast, to assist regional staff and partners in achieving management objectives.

**Project Highlights:**

**\$3,610.00** invested in the Boundary Lake conservation area for property assessment, maintenance and inspection of water control structures, production and maintenance of information signs, and review of oil and gas industry projects on site.

**\$2,859.00** invested in the Comstock Marsh conservation area for property assessment and maintenance and inspection of water control structures. Information signage was produced and maintained.

**\$3,806.00** invested in the Dunlevy Creek conservation area for property assessment, and production and maintenance of information signs. Conifer seedling ingrowth was removed on 16 hectares of former hayfield, to maintain ungulate foraging habitat.

**\$2,587.00** invested in the Fort St. John Potholes conservation area for property assessment, maintenance and inspection of water control structures, fence inspection, and property boundary signage. The water control structure was replaced this year (funded by other sources).

**\$15,855.00** invested in the McQueen Slough conservation area for property assessment and maintenance and inspection of water control structures. Dilapidated section of old boardwalk and two unsafe foot bridges were removed and a wooden railing constructed at end of remaining boardwalk.

**\$3,780.00** invested in the Worth Marsh conservation area for property inspections, installation and maintenance of property signage, maintenance and inspection of water control structure, and review of

oil and gas industry activities adjacent to the conservation area. Canada thistle was removed from the parking/water control area.

### **Conservation Outcomes:**

The 2020-21 field season included a number of important land management activities on conservation lands in the Northeast Region, ranging from habitat restoration to maintenance of public facilities and structures, working to ensure that habitat values are maintained or enhanced, and that public access to these conservation lands is safe and appropriate. At McQueen Slough, a dilapidated section of old boardwalk and two unsafe foot bridges were removed.

Informational signage, indicating property ownership and management partners, with contact information, was posted and maintained where appropriate and required. This serves to demarcate boundaries to protect habitat values from inappropriate 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.

Over 16 hectares of land at the Dunlevy Creek Conservation Area was kept clear of conifer seedlings, to maintain ungulate foraging habitat.

### **Photographs**



1. Boundary Lake – Boundary and informational signage maintained. Water control structure maintained.





2. Dunlevy Creek – Conifer seedlings removed to prevent ingrowth in ungulate forage area. Signage maintained.



3. Fort St. John Potholes conservation area. Signs maintained. Perimeter fencing inspected. Water control structure replaced (through other funding sources) and cleared of debris.



4. McQueen Slough – Water control structure maintained. Dilapidated section of old boardwalk and two unsafe foot bridges were removed. Railing constructed at end of remaining boardwalk.