



Wetlands Institute
BC Wildlife Federation



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

2024 Approved Stewardship Project List

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Projects highlighted in **green** are funded by the Province of BC and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) through the Caribou Habitat Restoration Fund:

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Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship

Approved Action Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Proponent
Promoting Human-Grizzly Coexistence: Electric Fencing Cost-Share Program	ACT-076	The Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative is working to minimize conflict and foster coexistence between grizzly bears and communities residing at the interface of human and bear populations, which is essential for facilitating grizzly bear recovery in southwest British Columbia. Launched in 2021, this privately funded and effective electric fencing cost-share program is a proactive approach to mitigating human-bear interactions by securing attractants to be inaccessible to bears. To date, twelve electric fences have been installed, safeguarding over 20 acres of commercial crops, home gardens, and livestock. The cost-share initiative plays a critical role in maintaining safe boundaries between human communities and the recovering grizzly bear populations.	\$36,000	Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative
Engaging Private Landholders to Stand Up for Xpey' (Western Redcedar)	ACT-053	The Xpey' (Cedar) project is the legacy of a group of Quw'utsun' Elders whose vision is to uplift their communities and inspire region-wide cultural restoration and protection activities to ensure that Xpey' (Western Redcedar) and other cultural values are available and accessible for cultural use for generations 500 years from now. Toward this vision, the group is establishing an Indigenous Land Trust to provide a variety of mechanisms for landholders to restore, protect, and ensure access to cultural values on largely privately owned lands across Hul'q'umi'num' territories. This project will support a landholder engagement program to share cultural teachings and ways of knowing about Xpey' and relationships with the land and inspire actions that will range from voluntary restoration activities and relationship agreements to legally binding covenants, co-management agreements, and land acquisition.	\$50,000	Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections Society in partnership with Social Planning Cowichan
Community Poison Hemlock Eradication Plan	ACT-052	Under the Community Poison Hemlock Eradication Plan, the community works together to eradicate the invasive plant poison hemlock from the Central Kootenay region. Poison hemlock is highly poisonous to humans, livestock, and pets and displaces native vegetation, especially in riparian areas. Community involvement through volunteer reporting, Community Early Detection and Rapid Response Teams, and collaboration between all land owners and holders will build the capacity in the Creston area to stop the spread of poison hemlock throughout the Kootenays.	\$35,702	Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS)
2024 Wetlands Institute: East Kootenays Region	ACT-012	The Wetlands Institute is a 7-day workshop that will provide the necessary tools and knowledge for practitioners to initiate wetland stewardship projects in BC. The 2024 Institute will be hosted in the East Kootenay region, providing high-quality training and hands-on wetland restoration and design experience while supporting regional initiatives. The 2024 Institute will also include a virtual Speaker Series on topics of value to wetland practitioners to support a greater and more diverse audience. Following the Institute, in-person participants are offered ongoing support to successfully complete their projects.	\$50,000	B.C. Wildlife Federation

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Conservation of At-Risk Plants on BC's South Coast	ACT-050	The phantom orchid, an endangered plant species, can be found in environments susceptible to detrimental human activities, including parks and private backyards. This project aims to focus on sites in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley to survey this plant, identify any concerns, and then work with the landowners to improve their activities to ensure that the plants are protected. To help improve the chances of success, a working group will be created with various at-risk plant conservation experts to review the survey results, share best management practices, and provide guidance on prioritizing and implementing conservation activities.	\$16,008*	The British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Shovel and Island Lake Stocking Standards	ACT-005	In 2018 the Shovel and Island Lake Wildfires impacted 113,793ha of forested area near Fraser Lake BC. In response to these fires, SERNbc initiated a collaborative restoration planning process involving local First Nations, communities, tenure holders, academia, experts, and the provincial government. The resulting non-legal landscape level plans have established management zones to prioritize the many values across the landscape as identified by collaborators and previous land use plans. The Ecosystem Restoration Plans (ERPs) have received support from the Nations, Province, and industry through collaboration and implementation of ERP objectives. SERNbc is currently working with all involved parties to create ERP Stocking Standards to support reforestation activities that align with ERP objectives.	\$48,900*	Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern B.C.
Corridors for Coexistence	ACT-049	As the Sunshine Coast population, and use by visitors, continues to expand into habitat for black bears and other wildlife, there is an urgent need to assess current and future anthropogenic threats to this habitat. This expansion into quality habitat can compromise important travel corridors, impinge upon connectivity, affect availability of natural food sources, and contribute to the presence of bears in urban areas leading to "human-bear conflict." The Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance Society has undertaken a study to identify these threats to black bear/wildlife habitat on our lower coast to illustrate to local governments the need for wildlife travel corridors within future planning and development decisions. In tandem with this study, our bear alliance will continue to educate residents and visitors about how to coexist safely and respectfully with our coast's bears.	\$9,874	Sunshine Coast Bear Alliance Society
Nature Stewards in Your Neighbourhood	ACT-044	The Nature Stewards in Your Neighbourhood project is a targeted approach to inspiring participation in community science data collection, volunteerism, and private land stewardship. This project expands community engagement opportunities in Chilliwack's Ryder Lake neighbourhood. It builds on the proven success of our Nature Stewards landowner advising program and the power of community science data collection to inspire long-term stewardship behaviour change.	\$25,000	Fraser Valley Conservancy



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Community Collaboration towards Water Quality Improvement in Langley BC	ACT-041	The Township of Langley is one of the richest agricultural areas in Canada, with 73% of the land base within the Agricultural Land Reserve, coupled with close to 2,000km of waterways. The threat of agricultural pollution is a genuine concern for fish, wildlife, and humans in this network of watersheds that extends to the Fraser River and Boundary Bay. This project will improve citizens' understanding of non-point source pollution sources and incentivize improved agricultural land management practices. Outreach and restoration activities will enable collective action to be taken to mitigate pollution concerns, leading to reduced pollution counts and improved water quality and aquatic habitats in local freshwater resources.	\$25,000	Langley Environmental Partners Society
Southern Mountain Caribou (South Grp) Professional Development Sessions	ACT-059	The overarching goal of this project is to bring various members of the Revelstoke, Columbia, and Central Selkirks Technical Working Group (RCCSTWG) Sub-group, key Ministry of WLRS, Parks, and ECCC staff, and First Nations together for professional growth and stronger, more trusting relationships with the ultimate shared goal of protecting the Southern Group of Southern Mountain Caribou. Through hosting a monthly 'Learn at work' series for the RCCSTWG Sub-group and an in-person get-together with the Sub-Group and some guest presenters leading learning sessions, this project will build connections between members, increase trust, and ultimately increase efficiencies towards helping Mountain Caribou herds grow and thrive.	\$25,000	Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship



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Approved Capacity Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Proponent
Salmon Parks Guardian Program	CAP-0174	The Mowachuht/Muchalaht First Nation (MMFN) Salmon Parks Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) is an Indigenous-led conservation initiative focused on protecting and restoring critical salmon ecosystems in terrestrial, marine and estuarine environments. A Community Advisory Council has been established within MMFN to provide input and guidance regarding the implementation of the Salmon Parks vision. This project will support the advisory council to identify key community values and goals and provide detailed recommendations for the establishment of a Guardians program within the terrestrial portion of the overall Salmon Parks region.	\$19,000	Salmon Parks Stewardship Society
Simpcw Ungulate Management Framework Development	CAP-0136	Estsek' Environmental Services LLP and Simpcw Natural Resources Department, in consultation with Simpcw Chief and Council, aim to develop a comprehensive Ungulate Management Framework for the sustainable conservation and management of mule deer, elk, moose, and caribou populations. This initiative seeks to assess current ungulate populations, identify potential threats, and establish an Ungulate Management Committee in collaboration with neighboring Secwepemc campfires, such as Skeetchestn and Tk'emlúps. This project will support the development of a regional, Indigenous-led ungulate management plan.	\$24,991	Estsek' Environmental LLP
Northern Goshawk Territory Restoration Treatment Planning	CAP-0165	The project will be focused on 2 adjacent active goshawk territories and developing management strategies to sustain territory viability including utilization of restoration treatments in second growth. The goal is to develop working examples of appropriate goshawk territory management that can be shared with other First Nations and land use stakeholders. The objectives are to: 1) Develop restoration strategies that are implementable for these territories. 2) Build the internal capacity of the Gitksan to identify appropriate territory management for goshawk and their forage species. 3) Build the internal capacity of SERNbc to work with the Gitksan Hereditary Chiefs within their Ayook (law) and cultural values.	\$23,140	Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern B.C.
Creating an Indigenous-led conservation initiative for a mountain at risk in S'ólh Téméxw	CAP-110	This program will support the development of an Indigenous-led conservation and protection project on Sumas Mountain in Abbotsford. It takes place on the traditional territory of the Semá:th people. Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) will partner with Sumas (Semá:th) First Nation (SFN) to collect more information about the environmental and cultural impacts of planned housing developments in this area. This project will support SFN and FVC in engaging in conservation planning in the first year, resulting in conservation action implementation in the second year.	\$20,000*	Fraser Valley Conservancy
Capacity Building Training within Nlaka'pamux Homeland	CAP-101	A partnership between AEW LP and the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) aims to bolster capacity within the environmental and forestry sectors. With the support of the HCTF Capacity Grant, the project seeks to conduct a series of specialized training courses and acquire essential field equipment necessary for upcoming projects. These resources will play a crucial role in enhancing expertise and facilitating the successful execution of upcoming environmental and forestry initiatives.	\$24,906*	AEW LP



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Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Proponent
Supporting Capacity-Building for Indigenous-led Bat Conservation	CAP-130	Bats, vital to both ecosystems and the economy, confront an array of threats that include climate change, white-nose syndrome, wind energy development, timber harvest, and other sources of habitat loss. With 17 species, BC hosts the highest diversity of bats in Canada, all with long life spans and low reproductive rates, which poses challenges for population recovery due to slow replacement rates. Supporting the development of Indigenous-led community bat conservation programs is increasingly important as more bats become species at risk.	\$10,000	WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada - Western Canada Bat Conservation Program
Adams Lake Indian Band Breeding Bird Atlas	CAP-126	The Adams Lake Indian Band Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) aims to provide a current evaluation of the distribution, relative abundance, and status of birds that breed within the Adams Lake Watershed. This project will support ALIB in obtaining important baseline breeding bird data, more accurate information on location and abundance of significant species (including species at risk), and will help inform conservation needs of bird species within the Adams Lake Watershed. This project is integral in supporting ALIB's larger Species at Risk program.	\$9,000	Adams Lake Indian Band
Caribou Habitat Restoration within the Kitselas Traditional Territory	CAP-091	This project will train and provide experience to Nation members in conducting site assessments for prescription development on linear features within the Telkwa Caribou herd range, building on Wai Wah Environmental's previous success in verifying high-priority linear features for restoration.	\$24,630*	Wai Wah Environmental GP Ltd
Empowering BC Conservation Organizations to Acquire Lands from US Owners	CAP-164	This project is focused on building capacity in BC conservation organizations including land trusts, Indigenous-led organizations, and parks agencies to acquire conservation lands and conservation covenants from US-based landowners. American Friends of Canadian Conservation (AFCC) will deliver training workshops to these organizations that will impart knowledge and skills that will promote success in receiving land donations. The project will be focused on the Salish Sea region of BC, home to the imperiled Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem, and will include the identification of high-conservation-priority private lands that are owned by US-based entities, to enable immediate land protection action by BC conservation organizations using their new knowledge and skills.	\$14,000	American Friends of Canadian Conservation
Grizzly Bear Management Plan	CAP-092	The Tsilhqot'in National Government is leading a Territory-wide Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the Chilcotin Region of BC starting in winter 2024/25. This plan will focus on creating an in-depth management plan to guide grizzly bear management in the Chilcotin as the next step from the Provincial-level plan. The TNG plan would incorporate input from various individuals and organizations with an emphasis on including all six Tsilhqot'in communities.	\$10,000	Tsilhqot'in National Government



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Tsilhqot'in National Government Moose Management Plan	CAP-133	The Tsilhqot'in National Government is leading a Territory-wide Moose Management Plan for the Chilcotin Region of BC starting in winter 2024/25. This plan will focus on creating an in-depth management plan to guide moose management in the Chilcotin as there currently is no plan for moose. It will incorporate input from various individuals and organizations with an emphasis on including all six Tsilhqot'in communities.	\$10,000	Tsilhqot'in National Government
Tsilhqot'in National Government Fisher Management Plan	CAP-139	The Tsilhqot'in National Government is leading a Territory-wide Fisher Management Plan for the Chilcotin Region of BC starting in winter 2024/25. This plan will focus on creating an in-depth management plan to guide fisher management in the Chilcotin as there currently is no plan for fisher. It will incorporate input from various individuals and organizations with emphasis on including all six Tsilhqot'in communities.	\$10,000	Tsilhqot'in National Government



Yuma Myotis bat in Alice Lake Provincial Park
WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Approved Community Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Proponent
Columbia Shuswap Communities in Action: Invasive Plant Management 2024 Volunteer Projects	COM-0090	This project will target three sites in the Columbia Shuswap region where invasive plant management will benefit migratory bird and western painted turtle habitat: Revelstoke Reach project site, and two new Shuswap Yellow Flag Iris sites (Turner Creek and Salmon Arm Bay foreshore). It will involve volunteers for mechanical invasive plant treatments, as well as indigenous expertise and learning on project sites.	\$3,500	Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Cormack Marsh Rehabilitation	COM-0091	In this project, Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists will plant ecologically suitable species in Cormack Marsh, located within Princeton town limits. This should assist in crowding out some of the invasive plants and help to rehabilitate the area which is a novel ecosystem. Planting will be done cautiously over the next several years, testing for survival rates and adjusting as necessary.	\$500	Vermilion Forks Field Naturalists
Wire Fencing Removal	COM-0097	The project will identify, remove, and dispose of old, hazardous wire fencing on Crown Land within the range of the Kamloops Lake sheep herd.	\$4,800	Kamloops and District Fish and Game Association
Fairview Antelope-brush Restoration Project	COM-0098	The Oliver and District Heritage Society (ODHS) will steward the historic Fairview townsite according to educational, historical, and ecosystem values. A key aspect of its stewardship vision is to protect, enhance, and educate the public about the 88 acres of globally imperiled and provincially red-listed Antelope-brush/needle-and-thread grass habitat on this site.	\$10,000	Oliver and District Heritage Society
Galiano Island Restoration Habitat Enhancement Project	COM-0099	This project will improve the recovery of native vegetation and enhance breeding habitat for native waterfowl and songbirds through targeted planting of native species and nest box installation across the Galiano Conservancy's Mid-Island Protected Areas Network on Galiano Island.	\$10,000	Galiano Conservancy Association
Metchosin Parks Holly Eradication	COM-0101	To date, Metchosin Invasive Species Council (MISC) has removed all the known holly from 6 District of Metchosin parks representing 230+ acres of parkland. In 2021 MISC expanded its efforts to Matheson Lake/Roche Cove Parks, removing an estimated 10,000+ holly stems from an area of approximately 20-25 acres. Broom in East Sooke Park and several invasive species in Witty's Lagoon Park are also being removed by volunteers through this initiative.	\$4,983	Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative
Craigflower Estuary Restoration	COM-0102	The Craigflower Estuary Restoration Project aims to restore vital tidal marsh habitats in View Royal Park, addressing significant losses due to historical farming, urban development, climate change, and invasive hybridized Canada geese. Through ecocultural fencing to deter grazing geese, creating tidal channels, and replenishing marsh banks with amended spoils, the project seeks to reverse marsh degradation and promote ecosystem recovery, serving as a valuable model for future marsh restoration efforts in the region.	\$9,700	Peninsula Streams Society
The Way of Wetlands: Boosting Resilience in Stanley Park's Waterways	COM-0103	Stanley Park's Beaver Lake and its surrounding creeks and bog are part of Vancouver's few remaining wetlands. The Stanley Park Ecology Society is working to conserve this extremely valuable habitat with help from a dedicated team of volunteers who are restoring habitats by replacing invasive plant species with native ones to provide shelter and food for the Park's resident and migratory wildlife.	\$9,310	Stanley Park Ecology Society



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Dillon Creek Wetland Enhancement Project	COM-0104	The Dillon Creek wetland was restored in 2021 to provide habitat and help reduce nutrient input into the nearby Hague and Gunflint Lakes. This project will enhance the nature conservation value of the wetland by providing nesting habitat for waterfowl and swallows through nest box installation; planting of trees and shrubs, the removal of invasive species, and erosion control; and water sampling to help assess the effectiveness of the wetland in reducing nutrient into the adjacent Hague and Gunflint Lakes.	\$8,450	Friends of Cortes Island
Wildlife Monitoring at Three Vancouver Parks	COM-0105	Bat, bird, and amphibian monitoring will be conducted by Wildcoast Ecological Society in collaboration with local stewardship groups at Jericho Beach Park, John Hendry Park, and Everett Crowley Park in the Lower Mainland. This baseline data will help to influence future rehabilitation and park planning efforts while providing community volunteers with the skills to continue limited monitoring of these species.	\$9,709	Wildcoast Ecological Society
Vanier Nature Park Garry Oak Grove Restoration	COM-0108	Vanier Nature Park in the Comox Valley is home to an endangered, rare example of a wetland Garry Oak ecosystem which supports a diverse suite of plants, animals, and insects, and they are drought and fire-tolerant. Comox Valley Naturalists Society plans to restore this oak grove by "releasing" the Garry oaks to the sun and improving health by removing invasive plants and reducing over-topping firs to wildlife snags.	\$5,692	Comox Valley Naturalists Society
Nature is for Everyone	COM-0109	Just as the forest thrives through diversity, so do we as a society. Nature is for Everyone is an innovative program in South Vancouver, welcoming those who are currently under-represented in the environment restoration movement. The project will encourage families, including those with young children, to improve the habitat while connecting with nature.	\$8,120	Free the Fern Stewardship Society
Improving Water Quality & Wetland Habitat at Trout Lake	COM-0110	Wildcoast Ecological is restoring the native ecology and water quality of Trout Lake in John Henry Park, Vancouver. As one of the only lakes in a highly urbanized area, it has been massively degraded by urban influences and rampant invasive plant species. This project will plant an array of native species, remove massive tracts of invasive plants, educate and involve locals, and transform Trout Lake into a thriving ecosystem for wildlife and the community to enjoy.	\$7,525	Wildcoast Ecological Society
Enhancing the Vegetative Cover at Rithet's Bog Conservation Park	COM-0111	This project will enhance the native vegetative cover across multiple wetland and terrestrial habitats at Rithet's Bog Conservation Park with over-seeding and plantings; this will help these systems become more sustainable and better able to inhibit the ingress of invasive plant species and maintain biodiversity.	\$5,000	Rithet's Bog Conservation Society
Swan Lake Wetland Restoration	COM-0112	This project will restore 0.65 ha of wetland habitat in the Swan Lake Nature Reserve. The park is a central site of biodiversity, conservation, education, and recreation, and is surrounded by additional conservation management areas. This project will improve local water quality and restore habitat for wildlife (birds, amphibians, invertebrates, mammals) and threatened species, like Western painted turtle and Great Basin spadefoot.	\$10,000	B.C. Wildlife Federation

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Managing Yellow Flag Iris at Pinantan Lake	COM-0113	This project will use community engagement to map and manage yellow flag iris at Pinantan Lake. The newly formed Friends of Pinantan Lake will undertake a yellow flag iris mapping and treatment program for the aquatic invasive species yellow flag iris.	\$6,250	Catherine Tarasoff
Cottonwood Creek Water Quality Monitoring	COM-0114	The Cottonwood Creek Water Quality Monitoring program is a volunteer-empowered water quality monitoring initiative that collects valuable data from the Cottonwood Creek watershed. This data will inform future habitat restoration and stewardship initiatives on the creek.	\$1,200	Living Lakes Canada Society
Skeena Salmon Stewardship Squad	COM-0117	SkeenaWild Conservation Trust has established a distribution list that allows individuals interested in volunteering to receive updates on projects and opportunities. To stay connected, a "Stewardship Squad" newsletter and Facebook group provide information about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, updates, and the ability to connect and share experiences.	\$5,000	SkeenaWild
Saving Bird Lives One Home at a Time	COM-0118	Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) is launching a campaign to help organizations, developers, residents, and others reduce bird deaths on southern Vancouver Island. Human activities cause more than 250 million bird deaths each year in Canada, and many of these can be avoided with simple strategies. RPBO will hold workshops and educational events and develop written materials for the public to use in their yards and neighbourhoods.	\$9,250	Rocky Point Bird Observatory
Habitat attributes that impact badger culvert use within Simpcw Territory	COM-0119	This project aims to make crossing roads safer for badgers by identifying the rate at which they use various culverts along Highway 5. Through habitat assessments and wildlife cameras, this research will identify attributes that impact the rate at which badgers use culverts. These findings, along with other important information regarding badgers and highways, will be presented to the public through markets, town hall-style meetings, and printed materials.	\$6,125	Jadzia Porter

