HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Year 1 Reports

Land Stewardship Grants

2023-2026 Funding Cycle

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grants

2023-26

Introduction

In 2008, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation was provided with a $9M endowment contribution from the Province of British Columbia to fund operations and maintenance activities on conservation lands. $3M of the endowment was allocated for activities on private lands managed by non-profit organizations. Since 2017, 25 grants have been awarded. This document contains year 1 reports for projects approved for funding for 2023-2026.

Project #	Project Name	Organization	Amount Spent Yr 1
1-817	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve	Salt Spring island Conservancy	$32,917
1-818	Millard Learning Centre	Galiano Conservancy Association	$16,300
1-819	Matson Conservation Area	Habitat Acquisition Trust	$12,864
1-820	Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2	Denman Conservancy Association	$16,408
2-764	Ryder Creek	Fraser Valley Conservancy	$8,999
5-347	Horsefly River	Nature Conservancy of Canada	$44,970
8-500	Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park	BC Small Wetlands Association	$15,350
		Total for program:	$147,808

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

1–817

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: ___1-817_____

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

Project Leader Name: Penelope Barnes

Name of Organization: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Reporting Year __1__ of 3

Date of Report: April 12, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Contact Information: pbarnes@saltspringconservancy.ca. 1-250-931-4627

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

SSIC Website Blog: SSIC provided advance notice of the replacement, as well as notice of the completion, of Hitchcock Creek bridge on Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve on SSIC's website blog. This communication ensured that walkers were advised of the bridge construction and, also, when the north and south sections of the reserve were reconnected as a result of the new bridge.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

HCTF and the Province of BC were acknowledged in SSIC's website blogs relating to the Hitchcock Creek bridge replacement project (see links below).

https://saltspringconservancy.ca/blackburn-lake-nature-reserve-bridge-replacement/

https://saltspringconservancy.ca/blackburn-lake-nature-reserve-bridge-replacement-complete/

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1. Construction of Hitchcock Creek Bridge. The trail connecting the north and south sections of Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve was closed for bridge replacement.
Photo 2. Hitchcock Creek Bridge - Before and After. The deck of the old bridge was washed away due to flooding resulting from the November 2021 atmospheric river event. The new bridge is designed for pedestrians and light vehicle duty, thereby allowing SSIC's utility vehicle access to move equipment and supplies across the entire reserve.
Photo 3. Trail cut through dense vegetation. The brushcutter, purchased with HCTF Land Stewardship grant funding, allows trails to be cut through dense vegetation, including Reed canary grass.

4. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

Replacement of bridge over Hitchcock Creek: $27,249.98

Brushcutter - $2,002.72

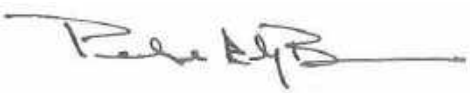
Provide any other information about this project you wish to share with HCTF. Eg. Discuss any roadblocks or unexpected issues impacting project progress.

If this is your **final report** please include a short summary of any lessons learned, unexpected benefits and project highlights.

SSIC intended to purchase the mower in year 1 but this was moved to year 2 following approval of a change request submitted to HCTF's Conservation Lands Program Coordinator. The delay in mower purchase was to ensure that the bridge replacement was completed prior to ordering the mower.

5. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.

Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	April 12, 2024	Penelope A.G. Barnes

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number 1-817

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve	1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Restore utility vehicle access to southern portion of reserve in order to permit invasive species control equipment access	New bridge over Hitchcock Creek (year 1) allows pedestrian and utility vehicle crossing (years 1-3)	Obtain design plans from structural engineer (year 1).	C	Bridge design plans for Hitchcock Creek were obtained from a structural engineer. All necessary permits were acquired. The bridge was completed in September, thereby restoring utility vehicle access to the southern portion of the reserve for invasive species control.
				Obtain necessary permits	C	
				Construct the bridge (year	C	
	1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species (also contributes to Goal 4: Provide ongoing and educational public access)	Acquire equipment necessary to eliminate, reduce or manage invasive plants on the reserve	Acquire a trailer mower for controlling Canada thistle and a brushcutter for controlling Reed canary grass (year 1). Mower and brushcutter used successfully in years 1-3.	Purchase trailer mower to use with exisiting utility vehicle (year 1).	IP	The mower purchase was moved to year 2 with permission from HCTF's Conservation Lands Program Coordinator. SSIC wanted to ensure that the bridge replacement was completed prior to ordering the mower and, unfortunately, the bridge was not completed in time for the 2023 mowing of the Canada thistle fields. The brushcutter was purchased and used for controlling Reed canary grass.
				Purchase brushcutter (year 1).	C	
	1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Canada thistle	Canada thistle mowed on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Mow Canada thistle 2 times per year (years 1-3).	IP	Canada thistle was cut by a contractor with a weed-eater/brushcutter in June and early September, thereby preventing seeding and encroachment. This method, although very time consuming, had to be used because purchase of the new mower was delayed until the bridge replacement was complete. Bridge replacement was completed after the thistle season (September). This activity was completed for year 1 but, because this activity will continue in years 2 and 3, was coded 'IP'.
	1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Reed canary grass	Reed canary grass cut on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Obtain necessary permit exemptions (year 1).	C	All necessary permit exemptions were obtained. Brushcutter used to cut Reed canary grass three times, thereby weakening the plants and helping to prevent seeding and encroachment. This activity was completed for year 1 but, because this activity will continue in years 2 and 3, was coded 'IP'.
				Cut Reed canary grass 3 times per year (years 1-3).	IP	

	4. Provide ongoing and educational public access	Maintain clear trails for public access and to reduce the instances of the public walking off-trail and potentially damaging ecosystems	Public trails are clearly deliniated by mowing (years 1-3).	Mow trails 3 times per year (years 1-3).	IP	Paths were mowed in the north section of reserve by a neighbour volunteer using his tractor mower but, because the bridge replacement was not completed until September, the paths to the south section of the reserve could not be accessed by tractor. Instead, these paths were mowed in late May by a contractor, who accessed from Fulford-Ganges Road, having trailered in his own mower. This mowing maintained the public trails for walkers, while reducing instances of the public walking off-trail and potentially damaging ecosystems. The new mower was not yet purchased because the new bridge was not completed until September. This activity was completed for year 1 but, because this activity will continue in years 2 and 3, was coded 'IP'.

Millard Learning Centre

1-818

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: _1-8181_____

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Millard Learning Centre

Project Leader Name: Adam Huggins

Name of Organization: Galiano Conservancy Association

Reporting Year _1__ of 3

Date of Report: April 10, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

1. Field courses from the University of Victoria and BCIT were provided tours of project areas and participated in project activities.

2. We hosted separate visits from staff and board members of Transition Salt Spring, A Rocha Canada, HCTF, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, BCWF's Wetlands Education Program, and the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary, providing custom tours of project areas for each group.

3. We hosted the following annual outreach events on the property, engaging over 300 people in project areas: Supporter Appreciation Event, Walkalong for Learning, Make A Difference Week, and the New Years Day Interpretive Walk.

4. We hosted regular weekly Friday work parties in the project areas, engaging local volunteers. The response to our work at the Millard Learning Centre has been overwhelmingly positive. We are increasingly recognized by educational institutions and regional conservation organizations as a regional leader in hands-on conservation, restoration, and environmental education. The Millard Learning Centre showcases our work in all of these areas, and is serving as a demonstration site and inspiration for other land-based project and proposals in our region.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

1. We produced and released a short video entitled Cedars for the Next Century – Part 3: Creek Restoration on our YouTube channel and social media, acknowledging the HCTF.
2. We launched a new website, where the HCTF is acknowledged on Our Partners and Funders page, as well as on project pages, such as the Chrystal Creek Watershed Restoration page.
3. During in-person tours and events, we verbally acknowledge support from the HCTF for our work.
4. We release social media posts and supporter newsletters throughout the year, and HCTF is acknowledged where relevant.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

1. The Tyee – "The Thriving Business of Rewilding" (18 March 2024)

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 File name and Photo Description: Broom Removal_Adam H - GCA staff remove Scotch broom from sensitive coastal bluff ecosystems using fall protection equipment (photo: Adam Huggins)
Photo 2 File name and Photo Description: Restored Wetlands_Adam H – View of several of the over 90 constructed wetland pools established within the Chrystal Creek watershed during restoration treatments, following one growing season (photo: Adam Huggins)
Photo 3 File name and Photo Description: Student Spillway Construction_Meerah G – A group of ecological restoration students and profs from BCIT apply soil bioengineering treatments to a spillway to prevent erosion in the Chrystal Creek watershed (photo: Meerah Graham)

5. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.

Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	April 10, 2024	Adam Huggins

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number____1-818

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Millard Learning Centre (DL 57)	RESTORE ecosystems throughout the Millard Learning Centre	Complete the restoration of the Chrystal Creek watershed from ridgeline to shoreline	Restoration treatments - including decompaction, wetland construction, ditch removal, streambed realignment, distribution of woody debris, and establishment & protection of native plants - are applied across 11.5 ha of the 26 ha Chrystal Creek watershed.	Plan, coordinate, and implement restoration activities across Phases 1, 2, and 3 of complex restoration program unfolding across multiple funding cycles with a diverse set of funders	C	In Year 1, we completed primary restoration treatments within the Chrystal Creek watershed, including the reconstruction of the final section of Chrystal Creek, was well as excavation of wetland pools, rough and loose soil decompaction, ditch removal, additions of coarse woody debris, and establishment of native plants. Activities related to this project in Years 2 and 3 will consist primarily of ongoing plant care, soil bioengineering to address any erosion that occurs, garbage removal, basic site maintenance, and monitoring. /// Weekly Friday volunteer events were offered regularly throughout the year, including for International Make a Difference (MAD) week to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. We hosted hands-on field classes for UVic and BCIT. /// Following summer monitoring activities, we identified areas in need of replanting and established native plants in those areas.
				Host weekly Friday volunteer days and organize post-secondary field school and volunteer group visits to engage students and the community in restoration treatments	C	
				Replace native plants as needed in planted areas after monitoring for survival	C	
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend and maintain network of nature trails	6.7 km of nature trails maintanined, and an additional 800m constructed to replace eroding logging roads	Maintain 6.7 km of nature trails	C	We maintained, improved, and expanded the Millard Learning Centre trail network for Year 1. The trail continue to attract regular use by the islanders and visitors. /// We initiated construction of a 1 km trail through the east** (original application said 'west', but this was an error) branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed. Trail building activities will continue throughout Year 2. /// We completed construction on two bridge crossings across the reconstructed final section of Chrystal Creek following road and culvert removal. Some additional trail work will be needed for the areas on either side of the second bridge.
				Construct foot trail (800 m) through the east branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed to replace roads that are removed	IP	
				Build a foot bridge / boardwalk to replace culverted road crossing at the outlet of Chrystal Creek	IP	
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend invasive species management activities based on 2021 Invasive Species Management plan	Source and outlying populations of target invasive species identified in the 2021 Invasive Species Management Plan are efficiently controlled and/or eliminated across the property. [Control means the removal of all sexually mature individuals on an annual basis, continuing until the seed / propagule bank is exhausted.]	Expand Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius) removal activities from 2020-2023 target areas to include the entire property	C	We removed Scotch broom from across the property, with a focus on the 2 km of coastal bluffs and forest. We also invested in additional gear and training to improve our ropes program to allow us to more efficiently and safely control populations on very steep slopes, and performed mapping to establish distinct Scotch broom management zones across the property to standardize our approach in future years. /// We removed other target introduced species across the property, with a focus on the Chrystal Creek watershed, the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest, the former Mill Site, and the 2 km of coastal bluffs and forest. /// We swept the property and nearby forests for Tansy Ragwort on several occasions over the course of July and August.
				Remove high priority invasive species across the property, including holly (Ilex aquifolium), blackberries (Rubus spp.), yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus) and hawthorne (Crataegus monogyna)	C	
				Continue to remove tansy ragwort (Jacobaea vulgaris) from across the property and nearby roadsides	C	
	MONITOR and maintain restored areas at the Millard Learning Centre	Peform annual monitoring and maintenance activities to ensure long-term success of restoration projects	Monitoring protocols and repeat photography carried out on an annual basis across all active project sites at the Millard Learning Centre, contributing 3 years to ongoing data sets, generating insights for management, and providing opportunities for necessary maintenance.	Perform detailed vegetation monitoring protocol for the Phase 1 area of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, and use results to inform revegetation treatments for Phases 2 and 3	C	We performed detailed vegetation monitoring for the Phase 1 area of the Chrystal Creek watershed. After doing so, we revisited the protocol, made some improvements to our methods, and selected a subset of the original 86 monitoring plots for ongoing annual data collection. /// We monitored deer exclosure and forest garden plots for Year 1, and improved our data management system. /// We completed repeat photography for the property for Year 1, and established additional repeat photo points for ongoing monitoring.
				Continue annual monitoring of deer exclosure plots and forest garden plots according to specialized GCA monitoring protocols	C	
				Complete annual repeat photography at established points across property to document the results of habitat conservation and restoration efforts	C	
	DETECT Species at Risk at the Millard Learning Centre	Perform targeted surveys to detect select Species at Risk	Presence / absence of sharp-tailed snakes (Contia tenuis) along 2 km of suitable habitat at the Millard Learning Cenre determined with reasonable confidence. Spread of breeding populations of northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across restored / constructed wetland ecosystems at the Millard Learning Centre	Obtain necessary permits and collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy to monitor ACOs in order to detect sharp-tailed snake (Contia tenuis) presence along 2 km of suitable coastal habitat	IP	We established sharp-tailed snake ACOs along 2 km of coastal bluffs and forest. Halfway through the year, our Conservation Coordinator moved to another organization, and we hired a replacement. Our new hire will make progress on sharp-tailed snake monitoring in Year 2. /// We completed our annual acoustic monitoring and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs across the property for Year 1. We confirmed egg masses for red-legged frogs, Pacific tree frogs, and long-toed salamanders in newly constructed wetland habitats across the property.
				Continue annual acousitc, visual, and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across artificial, natural, and newly constructed wetland habitats at the Millard Learning Centre	C	

			mapped and documented over a 3 year period.			
	DOCUMENT and share results from project monitoring activities	Publish brief technical papers that communicate key practical insights derived from project activities to a students & practitioner audience	At least three brief (3-8 page) technical papers produced and dissemminated, highlighting the key results and outcomes of 6+ years of monitoring activities across a range of restoration projects at the Millard Learning Centre.	Produce brief technical paper communicating outcomes of Chrystal Creek restoration project activities and 4 years of monitoring	IP	We drafted a report summarizing the results from the first two years of monitoring in the Chrystal Creek watershed, to be published on our website in Year 2. /// Work on the other technical papers will commence in Year 3.
				Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 6 years of monitoring deer exclosure plots across a ranage of ecosystem types	NS	
				Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 9 years of monitoring forest garden sites using a wide range of criteria related to biodiversity, productivity, and social benefit	NS	

Matson Lands

1–819

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: ___ CAT24-1-819_____

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Matson Conservation Area ("MCA")

Project Leader Name: Max Mitchell

Name of Organization: Habitat Acquisition Trust

Reporting Year __1__ of 3

Date of Report: April 14, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization: Habitat Acquisition Trust

Contact Information: max@hat.bc.ca

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

We held multiple community events at the Matson Conservation Area this past year:

May 17th, 2023: Restoration and cultural knowledge sharing event led by HAT Staff in collaboration with Tiffany Joseph to mark the arrival of the PENÁW̱EN̲ new moon in the W̱SÁNEĆ lunar calendar. Attended by 30 volunteers.

June 19th, 2023: Restoration event and cultural knowledge sharing event let by HAT Staff in Collaboration with Tiffany Joseph to mark the arrival of the ĆENŦEK̲I new moon in the W̱SÁNEĆ lunar calendar. Attended by 45 volunteers.

October 27th, 2023: Interpretive Birding Walk for the 100th anniversary of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, highlighting the connections between the restoration and stewardship of the Matson Conservation Area and the health of bird population. Attended by 18 participants.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

During each of HAT's outreach activities (please see above, with the exception of weekly work parties held by Matson Mattocks), HCTF was acknowledged and thanked as a partner for financial support and consistent partnership over the years. Matson Conservation Area has received support from HCTF in previous cycles of the Land Stewardship Grant, and HAT is keen and proud to acknowledge our relationship at all public events held at Matson Conservation Area.

Each event was also highlighted in the HAT newsletter (the Fern) and HCTF was mentioned as a funder.

HCTF's partnership is also mentioned in HAT's annual report which is distributed to members before our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Funding from HCTF for our land stewardship and other projects that receive HCTF funding are acknowledged and highlighted during HAT's AGM.

In all cases of communicating the project to the public, it was received positively. Local residents and members of the public were grateful to see HAT's presence, community engagement, and responsiveness of the staff to concerns.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

HAT Blog post on W̱SÁNEĆ PENÁW Moon Restoration Event at the Matson Conservation Area:

https://hat.bc.ca/blog/penawen-moon2023

The Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary 100th anniversary event received media response:

https://www.vicnews.com/local-business/victoria-bird-sanctuary-celebrates-100-years-keeping-nature-alive-in-city-5893007

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 File name and Photo Description:

Photo 1 Cultural knowledge sharing a Matson

Photo 2 File name and Photo Description:

Photo 2 HAT Staff Remove Invasive English Ivy

Photo 3 File name and Photo Description:

Photo 3 Students gather at Matson Conservation Area

4. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.

Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	April 11, 2024	Max Mitchell

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number ____1-819

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Matson Conservation Area ("MCA")	Build upon previous enhancement and restoration of the native Garry Oak and associated ecosystems and the native wildlife that occurs in the Conservation Area through implementation of MCA Restoration Plan (developed with funding support through 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-651)	1. Continue to apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species following best practices that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival	1. All major infestations of woody invasive plant species (English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom) to be successfully treated with mechanical control (manual removal) and invasive species cover reduced by 75% 2. Reduce the impact of invasive grasses on native GOE meadow and assoc. pollinator habitat by mechanically removing targeted invasive grasses (such as Orchard Grass and Velvet Grass) from open canopy Garry Oak meadow. Invasive grass thatch in meadow to be removed from 25% of MCA 3. Properly dispose of any soil, seeds, and plant parts removed during treatment, and clean tools/equipment	Matson Mattocks stewardship group will continue to volunteer mechanical control (manual removal) of invasive plant species, and seasonal invasive grass thatch reduction at weekly work events	IP	The Matson Mattock continue to meet weekly to carry out restoration tasks based on guidance from HAT staff HAT staff have been meeting regularly with Registered Professional Biologist Kristen Miskelly to carry out vascular plant inventories and to provide restoration prescriptions HAT Restoration Field Crew spent 17 days on site in year 1 carrying out restoration tasks Strategic herbicide application perfomed on English Ivy by Habitat Restoration Program Coordinator, under guidance of biologists Wylie Thomas and James Miskelly.
				Consult with experts on implementation of appropriate treatment strategy using alternative and/or innovative restoration methods in addition to manual removal (e.g. solarization, smothering, continued strategic herbicide application)	IP	
				HAT restoration crew employed annually to carry out MCA Restoration Plan, this includes: treating priority invasive species with manual removal and reduction of seasonal invasive grass thatch	IP	
		2. Install additional native plants; strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species	Enhance native plant biodiversity and abundance, promote ecosystem climate resilience, and prevent the re-establishment of invasive plant species. Native plant species cover of planting area to be increased by 25%	Annual planting of nursery-cultivated native seedlings (such as Garry Oak and Arbutus) to help ensure the successful establishment, survival, and generational succession of key species that struggle to self-germinate naturally.	IP	Planting and seeding of the Matson Conservation Area has continued, carried out by Matson Mattocks volunteers and HAT staff using plants purchased from Satinflower Nurseries, as well as salvaged plants contributed by volunteers. Evaluation of plant survival by biologist Kristen Miskelley determined that plantings and seedings were showing promising results, with a notable increase in native plant cover within the treatment areas Methods for more detailed rapid site assessments are currently being developed in collaboration with Nancy Shackleford
				Annual Autumn sowing of native plant seeds. Variety and quantity of seed sown to be determined based on ongoing project monitoring, and observed outcomes of 2021-2022 seedings	IP	
				Monitor percent survival rate of planted seedlings and percent cover of planting area	IP	
		3. Improve quality and increase quantity of potential pollinator habitat	Increase on-site stock of potential native food sources, nesting materials, and sources of shelter for pollinators to ameliorate pollinator population health; guided by results of 2022 pollinator survey conducted by Pollinator Partnership Canada.	Continue to consult with pollinator experts to evaluate potential habitat and to develop plan for making improvements to polliantor habitat. Use data from 2022 seasonal pollinator surveys to inform plant seedling and seed selection for 2023 installations	IP	Selection of native plants for planting based on recommendations of pollinator report Continued restoration prescriptions based on recommendations of pollinator report Follow up pollinator surveys for the Matson Conservation Area to be scheduled for year 2 or 3
				Install additional native pollinator plants through annual planting and seeding in areas newly cleared of invasive species	IP	
		4. Protect both naturally occuring and newly installed native plant seedlings (purchased and planted with funding support of the 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-651) from deer grazing	Allow native species to reach stage of maturity where they do not require protective fencing from deer grazing in order to survive independently. Survival allows for generational succession of species such as Garry Oak and Arbutus, as well as the enhancement of native shrubs and wildflowers. Protective fencing is necessary for young plants to become fully established without being disrupted by deer grazing. At least 90% of planted seedlings survive to at least 3 years.	Beginning of Year 1: Install 100 feet of additional steel wire-mesh fencing to priority native plants and and to sensitive areas	IP	Installation of free standing wire mesh fencing was carried out by Matson Mattocks Volunteers. Exclosure fencing repairs carried out by HAT staff. Fencing was installed primarily around newly planted plants, so as to help promote early survival and establishment, as well as around areas where sensitive sites were being negatively impacted by human interferance. Fencing efficacy has been determined as being highly useful for preventing the negative impacts of deer browsing. Plans for additional fencing are underway for years 2 and 3 to protect larger sections of the MCA
				End of Year 1: assess effectiveness of existing fencing and adjust future fencing strategy as necessary. Assessment of fencing efficacy to be repeated annually	IP	
				Years 2 & 3: continue to install protective fencing around individual plants that require protection, in the manner assessed most effective the preceding year; expanding height and diameter where necessary	NS	

		5. Monitor restoration treatment effectiveness, utilizing qualititative (photopoint) and quantitative data collection methods and reporting results at the end of 3 years.	1. Continue utilizing our effectiveness monitoring program, both quantitative and qualitative data collected will provide valuable information to gauge the project's success over time. Data evaluation will inform adaptive management strategies and priorities. 2. Monitoring data assists HAT in communicating with partners, funders and other stakeholders about the progress and importance of the ecosystem restoration project. Having a robust data set will help engage a variety of people and organizations in the work being done.	Contract plant biologists to conduct updated vegetation inventories using best practices identified by experts to update previous 2005 baseline vegetation report. Surveys to be conducted Spring 2023	IP	Biologist Kristen Miskelly has been contracted to carry out updated plant surveys of the MCA, these surveys will be compared to those of the 2005 baseline report to evaluate changes to vegetation composition over time.
				HAT Staff and crew conduct ongoing photopoint monitoring and data collection before and after treatments, documenting effectiveness of treatment strategies. Effectiveness will be measured by percent cover of native species both generally and specific to pollinator habitat prescriptions, as well as percent cover (reduction) and re-germination rates of invasive species	IP	Photopoint monitoring continues to be carried out on site to document efectiveness of restoration work Rapid-site assesment methods to evaluate restoration outcomes are currently being developed, to be implemented by HAT field crew in years 2 and 3
				Documentation of data and analysis will be presented in report form in 2026.	NS	Outcomes of the project to be evaluated and analysis of data collected over project duration to be compiled in year 3.
	Management of the Matson Conservation Area will continue to take place collaboratively through consultation and discussion with multiple community partners, including the representatives from the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations	6. Continue to organize biannual meetings of the Matson Conservation Area Management Advisory Group (MAG) re-established under previous grant 1-651.	Management Advisory Group will meet 2x/year to coordinate implementation of the MCA Management Plan and MCA Restoration Plan	Coordinate biannual meetings of the Management Advisory Group to seek feedback and advice on management issues, community concerns, and progress and direction on management and restoration plans.	IP	Management Advisory Group meeting was held in January of 2024. Another meeting had been scheduled during the summer of 2023, however capacity limitations of MAG members lead to limited attendance and it's cancellation.
				HAT provides MAG with annual summary progress reports	IP	January 2024 meeting was well attended, and determined a plan for management moving forward over year ahead. MAG members determined that meeting once anually would be sufficient.
		7. Engage directly with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and communities on issues of cultural importance, land management, and collaborative activities	1. Opportunities will be created for engagement with Indigenous community members on the land, leading to a mutual increase in knowledge on subjects such as traditional plant harvesting, as well as other traditional eco-cultural practices. 2. Indigenous land stewardship practices will be enabled at Matson Conservation Area in partnership with Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. 3. Create opportunties for Songhees and Esquimalt Nation community members to engage in stewardship	Establish a relationship with Chief and Council with both Songhees and Esquimalt Nations through annual presentations by invitation	IP	Ongoing relationship building is underway, focus being on working with representatives from the communities, as opposed to Chief and Council directly due to capacity limitations
				Facilitate an invitation for community members to visit MCA to participate in eco-cultural practices, and provide appropriate compensation for individuals to alleviate financial barriers to participation (at least 2 engagement events per year);	IP	Songhees Nation Member Joshua Bryce has joined the management advisory group, and has plans to invite community elders to the MCA so as to listen to their thoughts on management goals and community engagement opportunities. Esquimalt Hereditary Chief Edward Thomas has been invited to join the MAG. Advise has been received from Ed about his concerns and suggestions to management of Matson.
				Invite representatives from Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to join MAG or contribute expertise on management priorities at MCA	IP	May and June 2023 HAT hosts W̱SÁNEĆ-led restoration events with Tiffany Joseph, hosting indigenous community members through the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness.
		8. Adapt and update Matson Conservation Area Management Plan and Restoration Plan	Updates to Management Plan will include Traditional Ecological Knowledge and practices of the First Nations in whose territory the MCA is situated (Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations), in the cases where such inclusion is consented to by the Nations. Updates will also incorporate climate change adaptation plans, and other relevant updates based on advances in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration. The Restoration Plan, which informs the techniques, priorities and strategies of field work, will be informed by the principles in the Management Plan and adapted accordingly.	Collaborate with knowledge-keepers to seek recommendations about integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices into MCA Management Plan and activities through at least 2 site visits and discussions per year;	IP	Updates to the Matson Conservation Area Management Plan are underway, being overseen by Registered Professional Biologist Kristen Miskelly. Through the revision process we will seek to collaborate with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders where capacity allows, so that their input guides management and restoration decision making
				Collaborate with partners and experts in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration to seek recommendations about most current best management practices and climate change adaptation strategies, and their application to the MCA.	IP	Ongoing collaboration with expert biologists Wylie Thomas, Matt Fairbarns, and James Miskelly are also guiding management decision-making
				Update the MCA Management Plan with sythesized information, and extrapolate new information recommendations to the MCA Restoration Plan. Updated Management and Restoration Plans will be finalized in collaboration with the MAG.	IP	First draft of updated management plan were submitted to the MAG January 2024, subsequent revisions to be carried out by Kristen Miskelly and potential Indigenous-community partners

Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2

1-820

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 1-820

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2

Project Leader Name: Andy Blackburn

Name of Organization: Denman Conservancy Association

Reporting Year 1 of 3

Date of Report: 8th April 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information: lands.dca@gmail.com

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

DCA outreach table at weekly summer markets (May – Oct) featured information about new trail network development, fire monitoring, wetland stewardship and invasive species control. Board members signed up new volunteers for work bees.

Participation in Isfeld Secondary School's 2023 EcoFair attended by school groups from Comox Valley – display and activities focusing on wetland ecology and stewardship.

Walk 'n' Talk with Denman Homeschool group discussing conservation and stewardship on Denman.

Invasive species market display in collaboration with Denman Island Pesticide Free Committee highlighting invasive species removal efforts and how to get involved.

Collaboration with Denman Island Living with Beaver Project and related outreach events (funded by HCTF SEED grant)

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

- Regular DCA newsletter articles in the island paper updating the community on ongoing projects eg. trail & infrastructure development at Raven Woods & Wetlands, restoration at Winter Wren Wood, American Bullfrog monitoring, invasive species control.

- Updates to DCA website, social media pages & noticeboard outlining ongoing projects.

- Summer market outreach May-Oct 2023

- Monthly reports to Lands Committee & DCA Board of Directors

- DCA Annual General Meeting Feb 2023 report and presentation

- Communication with Islands Trust Conservancy (as Covenant Holder on DCA lands) regarding restoration work.

- HCTF recognition included on newly designed interpretive signage for Raven Woods & Wetlands.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

Newsletter; Aug 2023 – 'On the Land' article (attached)

DCA website- https://denmanconservancy.org/denman-nature/bullfrogs/

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 File name and Photo Description: *1. Raven bridge.jpg* – bridge crossing installed on new Raven trail.

Photo 2 File name and Photo Description: *2. Volunteer log peel.jpg* – volunteers preparing material for info kiosk build.

Photo 3 File name and Photo Description: *3. Volunteer trail work.jpg* – volunteers working on drainage on new Raven trail.

Photo 4 File name and Photo Description: *4. English holly.jpg* – cut and piled English holly removed by contractor in Raven W&W.

Photo 5 File name and Photo Description: *5. WWW restoration.jpg* – Volunteers standing alongside newly-erected split rail fence to protect restoration area in Winter Wren Wood.

Photo 6 File name and Photo Description: *6. Info kiosk.jpg* - Information kiosk built by contractor in Raven W&W.

Photo 7 File name and Photo Description: *7. Bench.jpg* – Yellow cedar bench built by contractor at wetland viewpoint in Raven W&W.

Photo 8 File name and Photo Description: *8. Wetland sign.jpg* – interpretive sign designed for installation at bench site in Raven W&W.

Provide any other information about this project you wish to share with HCTF. Eg. Discuss any roadblocks or unexpected issues impacting project progress.

If this is your **final report** please include a short summary of any lessons learned, unexpected benefits and project highlights.

Following information in the Baseline Biological Inventory report produced for Raven Woods & Wetlands in Y1, the small-scale restoration project with planned deer exclosure fencing was postponed and restoration plans are being reassessed in Y2.

Relationship building and meaningful collaboration with First Nations is a process that takes time and is a challenge to fit with funding timelines. This work continues, and we hope to make progress with regards to First Nations input into the planned projects in years 2 & 3.

4. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.		
Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	8 April 2024	Andy Blackburn


Nature
Recovery Area
Nature Trail

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number ____1-820

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Management planning for newly-protected RWW conservation area undertaken through surveying to inform stewardship activities and drafting of Management Plan.	Biological Baseline report produced to inform management planning & stewardship of RWW. Consultation & collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation on management activities and planning, eg. Naming & language, ethnobotanical survey.	Contract professional Biologist to conduct Baseline survey of RWW to facilitate management planning.	C	Professional biologist hired to carry out Baseline Ecological Inventory of RWW. Baseline approved by DCA Board of Dircetors Feb 2024. Communications with K'ómoks FN Cultural Coordinator regarding language and naming, potential site visit. No confirmed timeline.
				K'ómoks First Nation outreach & organizing of visit(s) to collaborate on naming, management planning, and conduct possible ethnobotanical survey at RWW	IP	
	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Construction & installation of trailhead Info Kiosk with maps, access signage, cultural info etc., to educate public on importance of conservation area and ensure compliance with management regulations.	C	8'x6' information kiosk constructed in Nov 2023 at RWW trailhead using local materials by Denman carpenter. Kiosk signage designed by Denman-based designer/illustrator in collaboration with DCA committee.
				Construction & installation of bench & railing at wetland viewpoint to provide public access to wetland view, whilst preventing incursion into sensitive wetland habitat	C	Construction of yellow cedar bench on small concrete footings at wetland viewpoint by Denman carpenter in March 2024. Railing in progress.
				Design, printing and installation of printed metal interpretive signage highlighting importance of wetlands, species at risk found there, climate change implications at wetland viewpoint	IP	Illustrator/designer hired to create wetland interpretive sign in collaboration with DCA committee, using information from Baseline Report. Designs finalized and sent to printers. Installation to take place in May 2024.
	Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Lands Manager coordinates 4 volunteer trail-building work bees to create safe and clearly-defined trail for public access through conservation area, protecting native flora & fauna by reducing incursion into other areas by foot traffic	C	4 volunteer work bees (July, Aug, Sept 2023, Feb 2024) to clear and mark trail, including installing trail signage.
				Construction & installation of low-impact creek crossing, using cedar logs & metal walkway, to mitigate damage from foot traffic already occuring and provide safe access to northern portion of proposed loop trail.	C	Construction of creek crossing in Nov 2023 using local milled cedar lumber to safely connect trail by DCA committee member.
	Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir stands, recovering forest areas)	Trailhead improvements throughout Conservation Complex clarifying public accessibility and limiting potential incursion into ecologically sensitive areas.	Improved signage designed & installed and trail clearing work at 6 trailheads across complex. Metal walkways installed at 3 trailheads where deep ditches make for unsafe footing. Improved signage installed to mitigate ongoing compliance issues eg. Dogs, hunting.	DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install 3 metal 'catwalk' walkways across roadside ditches at new and existing trailheads.	C	3 metal walkways installed at trailheads along Chickadee Road in Aug 2023, spanning roadside ditch allowing safe access to trails.
				DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install newly printed trailhead signage indicating public access, naming, compliance, including First Nations language & naming in collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation.	IP	Wooden trail signage installed on newly created Raven trail. Waiting on progress with K'ómoks FN before finalizing additional trailhead signage.
				DCA Lands Manager organizes 6 trail clearing volunteer work bees to clearly indicate trailhead locations and provide safe access while protecting native vegatation.	IP	2 volunteer work bees clearing Chickadee Road trailheads, and Old Road Trail (July, Oct 2023) improving trail connections to new Raven trail.
	Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir stands, recovering forest areas)	Protect against wildfire by encouraging seasonally-appropriate access to Conservation Complex lands & providing means for safe disposal of flammable materials.	Volunteer coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew to carry out daily monitoring in high fire-risk areas throughout extreme fire hazard season (June-September). In collaboration with volunteer Fire Department, fireproof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by fire monitoring crew at main property entrances	Coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew for daily fire monitoring through fire season (Y1-3) and updates faded fire compliance signage at trailheads.	IP	Fire monitoring crew carried out daily monitoring of high-use areas from Jun - Oct 2023.
				Fire-proof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by monitoring crew throughout fire season. (Y1-3)	IP	Cigarette receptacles regularly monitored and emptied throughout year. 3 new receptacles placed along new Raven trail.
	Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within	Small-scale restoration of		DCA Lands manager & volunteers conduct species survey, inviting K'ómoks FN to collaborate, & erect 10x10m fencing at selected heavily-browsed site.	NS	

	degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Small-scale restoration of native shrub & herb layer species & Indigenous food plants within CDF regenerating areas	Deer exclosure fencing (10m x 10m) erected in heavily-browsed area within complex. Replanting & seeding of native tree and shrub species within exclosure.	DCA Lands manager coordinates volunteer replanting & seeding of trees and shrubs in fenced area. Native trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as necessary.	NS	
				Lands Manager & volunteers conduct Y2 & Y3 species survey of deer exclosure, fence maintenance & replanting as necessary.	NS	
	Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-Fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Restoration of former parking area in Winter Wren Wood, now inaccessible to vehicles, through replanting & protection of native species	Site-appropriate native trees & shrubs are planted and caged for deer-browse protection to restore former parking area. Descriptive signage is designed and installed to explain restoration project to visitors.	Lands Manager & volunteers plant and cage 20 - 30 native trees & shrubs in former parking area. Trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as	IP	Volunteer work bee (Aug 2023) relocated old Split-rail fencing to protect new restoration areas. Some natural plant regeneration already observed, so planting was held off until Y2. Land Manager designed and installed 2 temporary signs. Longer-term sign designs sent to printer, to be installed May 2024.
				Lands Manager designs and installs signage indicating & explaining restoration activities in area.	IP	
				Coordinator carries out weekly watering of planted trees & shrubs during establishment period in summer months.	NS	
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Enhance wetland & upland habitats by restoring native plant diversity through manual removal of invasive species (Scotch broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel, Canada Thistle, St.John's Wort, Reed Canarygrass).	Coordinator organizes 600 volunteer hours + 230 paid hours to remove invasive plants throughout Conservation Complex. Treated areas are mapped and photographed. GPS locations of cut holly trees are marked, & follow-up treatments in Y2&3 to cut resprouting shoots. GPS locations of Daphne removed are mapped to monitor spread throughout complex. Completed work is documented with photographs & maps of treated areas to guide continual management efforts. Previous mapping of treated areas is updated for continued tracking of progress.	Carry out 5 volunteer work-bees each year + hire contractor for 60h per year to continue efforts to remove Invasive Scotch Broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel (and other species) across the Conservation Complex (Y 1-3)	IP	4 contractors hired to carry out 60 hr invasive species removal across complex: Scotch broom, English holly, St. John's Wort, Daphne. 4 volunteer work bees (Jun, July, Oct 2023, Settlement Lands & Winter Wren Wood) focusing on Scotch broom, English holly removal. Contractor hired to removed English holly & Daphne across complex. Underway. Land Manager & volunteer revisted stumps in Central Park (Jan 2024) removing regrowth from approx. 35 stumps. To be continued in Y2 & 3.
				Hire contractor to remove min. 100 English Holly & Daphne Spurge-Laurel plants (an increasing invasive problem) throughout complex, marking GPS locations of plants removed. GPS locations are mapped for ongoing	IP	
				DCA Land Manager & volunteers use GPS locations to monitor previously cut Holly & Daphne stumps & remove resprouting shoots.	IP	
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue monitoring program for early detection of invasive American Bullfrogs throughout complex, following continued reports of probable presence & professional survey recommendations.	Volunteer working group is coordinated to carry out bi-weekly monitoring for American Bullfrog in perennial Lake/wetland habitats within the Complex. Outreach & information materials are updated with improved content following 2021 professional survey for American Bullfrogs on Denman.	Lands Manager to coordinate volunteer monitoring group (15-20 persons) yearly through email communication, data collection/record keeping and mapping, monitoring 12-15 waterbodies across Denman complex.	IP	Volunteer monitoring group of 12 monitored multiple wetlands and waterways across the complex totalling more than 112 hours from Jun - Aug 2023. No Bullfrog reports this year. Land Manager updated website and outreach material using info from 2021 survey and new ID photos and info to assist volunteers with frog ID. Website to have further updates in Y2.
				Lands Manager updates American Bullfrog outreach & website material with improved information (eg. Identification techniques, lifecycle info etc.) following recommended actions from 2021 professional American Bullfrog survey.	IP	
	Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue habitat maintenance for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (TC) & other invertebrate pollinators by controlling ingrowing vegetation & increasing density of food & nectar plants for larvae & adult TCs and other species.	Ingrowing trees & shrubs (0-1m tall) are removed from Butterfly Reserve Transect immediate area, to retain sunny areas for native meadow species used as nectar & larval host plants for TC. Where possible removed trees/shrubs are relocated as part of small-scale native species restoration projects elsewhere in Complex.	Lands Manager coordinates 1 volunteer work bee each year (Y1-3) to remove ingrowing trees & shrubs in Butterfly transect area.	IP	Work bee carried out Aug 2023, removing approx. 10 small trees and 50 Scotch broom plants. No appropriate-sized trees potted this year.
				Healthy and appropriate-sized trees/shrubs potted up for relocation to restoration areas by volunteers.	IP	

Ryder Creek

2-764

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 2-764

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Ryder Creek

Project Leader Name: Joanna Neilson

Name of Organization: Fraser valley Conservancy

Reporting Year __1__ of 3

Date of Report: April 15, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

Currently there is no public outreach component to this project. At this stage we are communicating with the FVRD, DFO, consultants, Stó:lō Nation and the immediate neighbours about this project. When we move on to the stewardship implementation phase of the project, we will reach out to community to engage volunteers to support the work.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

We mention to our partners that HCTF is funding this work. When we publish the results of our work in year two HCTF will be formally acknowledged.

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Maps referenced in the report template:
Map 1: Ryder Creek - Invasives 2023
Map 2: Ryder Creek - Anthropogenic Features
Site Photos:
Photo 1: *20230909 - Open Area* Showing vegetation (both native and invasive) and evidence of previous enhancement works in open area between the pond and the creek.
Photo 2: *20230909 - Ryder Creek* Looking downstream from the footbridge, showing salmon habitat and invasive and native vegetation.
Photo 3: *20230728 - Pond* Showing the pond created during previous enhancement works that is potential amphibian breeding habitat.

4. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

N/A

Provide any other information about this project you wish to share with HCTF. Eg. Discuss any roadblocks or unexpected issues impacting project progress.

This project is proceeding as planned. The timing of receiving funding to complete this work has been invaluable. There was a debris jam and overland flooding event on a neighbouring property in February of 2024. The need to have a management plan for this site is essential as we move forward with the FVRD in long-term planning for this ecologically important and dynamic landscape.

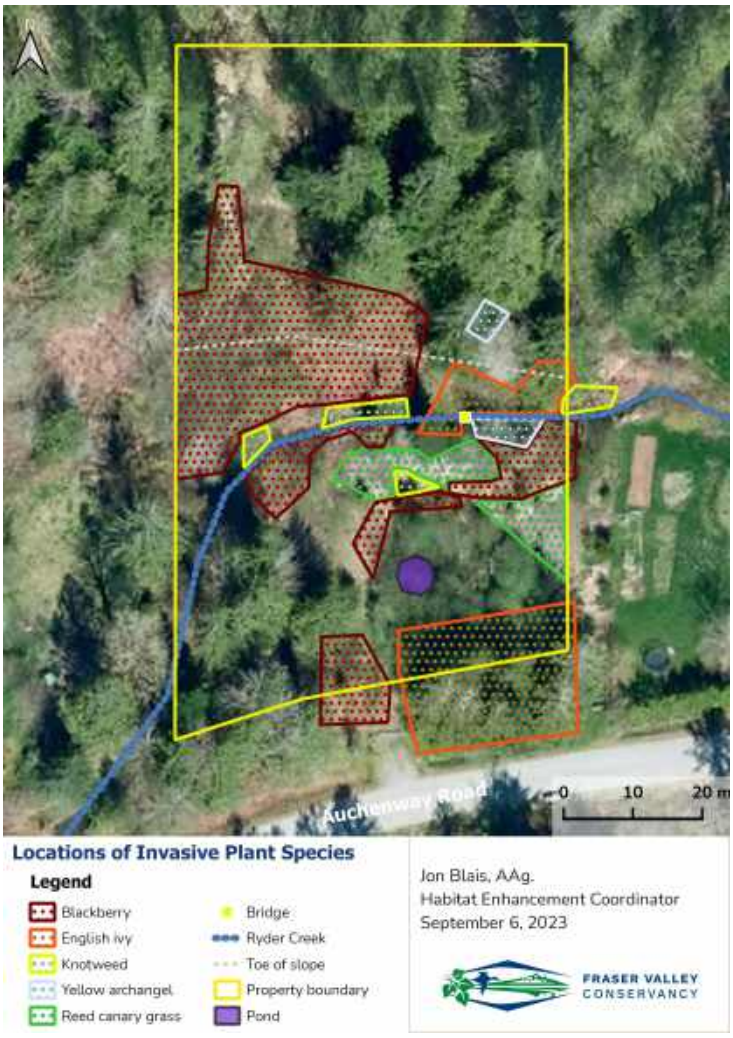
If this is your **final report** please include a short summary of any lessons learned, unexpected benefits and project highlights.

5. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.

Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	April 15th, 2024	Joanne Neilson


Observed Anthropogenic Features
Legend
Anthropogenic debris
Bird house
Bridge
Fence
Degraded fence
Gate
Buried telephone cable
Danger sign
Property boundary
Ryder Creek
Pond
Tire bank
0
10
20 m
Jon Blais, AAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
February 8, 2024
FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY


N
Auchenway Road
0
10
20 m
Locations of Invasive Plant Species
Legend
Blackberry
English ivy
Knotweed
Yellow archangel
Reed canary grass
Bridge
Ryder Creek
Toe of slope
Property boundary
Pond
Jon Blais, AAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
September 6, 2023
FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION **Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting** **Project Number ___2-764**

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Ryder Creek	Understand current conditions	Identify the aquatic and terrestrial habitat present and the species that may use them	Expert recommendations incorporated into baseline data collection and informs both the baseline report and management plan	Fish expert advising (species habitat, water quality monitoring methods, survey recommendations). Fish surveys if recommended. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	C	Aquatic Biologist Mike Pearson advised on fish habitat and site hydrology. Input is being included in the management plan for the property. FVC Staff conducted baseline vegetation surveys and mapped the invasive species (map attached). Advising on terrestrial wildlife suitability was postponed to year two for a better timing window. The FVC has a naturalist in mind for the advice.
				FVC Staff: Baseline vegetation surveys and mapping of invasive species. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and field equipment supplied by FVC.	C	
				Expert advising on terrestrial wildlife suitability. Survey recommendations and implementation. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	NS	
	Understand current conditions	Assess the landscape	The creation of a map or maps containing notable structures, hydrological features and property boundaries	FVC Staff: Visual inspection and mapping of notable structures throughout the property (Anthropogenic and natural)	C	FVC staff conducted a visual inspection of notable structures, and ground based searches for altered hydrology. Evidence of property boundary markers were looked for during this time and a webmap was used to clarify property boundaries. The results were mapped (map attached) and will be included in the baseline report and management plan.
				FVC Staff: Visual inspection with ground-based searches for altered hydrology. Mapping of all hydrologic features observed.	C	
				FVC Staff: Confirm and map property boundaries.	C	
	Understand current conditions	Document the existing conditions of the soil and water	Baseline data collected and organized for use in a baseline report and informs the management plan	Geotechnical expert advising (to understand site stability and asses risk). In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	C	Drew Brayshaw, expert Hydrologist and Geoscientist, was contacted for advise on geotechnical hazards of the area. His input was noted and will be included in the baseline document and management plan. FVC staff took water quality measurements, and soil samples. These were included and the baseline document and results will be interpreted and included in the management plan as necessary.
				FVC Staff: Water quality sampling	C	
				FVC Staff: Soil sampling	C	
	Understand current conditions	Document historic land use	Information collected and organized and reported in the baseline report and informs the management plan	FVC Staff: Investigation of historic land use/land use of surrounding area	C	FVC staff researched historical land use online and through books written about the area. Relevant information was included in the baseline document. Steve Clegg, a local naturalist and former FVC employee, provided input about the property's history and previous alternations made to the site. The Sto:lo Nation was contacted. Their process for consultation was given. This process is underway. They would like to provide input once a draft management plan is completed.
				FVC Staff: Consult with a First Nation group regarding historic significance of the area	IP	
	Understand current conditions	Create baseline document that will inform the management plan and habitat enhancement on the property	Baseline report created	FVC Staff: Compile the data collected and create baseline document. Additional contribution is FVC staff RPBio supervision and review for baseline data collection and analysis	IP	The information gathered was compiled into a draft baseline report. This report is at the review/editing phase.
	Guide property	Create a plan that will be used to manage the property and make	Management plan	FVC Staff: Interpret baseline findings and draft a management plan for the site. Additional contribution includes matching funds for FVC staff time developing the management plan.	IP	Baseline findings were interpreted and a management plan for the property has been started. Once the baseline report is finalized the management plan can then be completed and presented to the FVC board for review and approval. The target

	management both short and long term	property and make informed decisions both in the short and long term	Management plan created	FVC Staff: Review plan for property with FVC board of directors and solicit input. Additional contribution is in-kind support from the FVC Board members and Executive Director on the review and approval process.	NS	for completing this activity remains summer of 2024.
				FVC Staff: Finalize and publish the plan.	NS	
	Improve habitat	Reduce invasive plant species and increase of the presence of native vegetation	Approximately 1500 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Manual invasive species control focused on the areas of highest importance based on the management plan created. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and field equipment provided by FVC.	NS	This activity was planned for year 3, as it is dependent on management plan recommendations.
				FVC Staff: Plant native species where invasives were controlled. Additional contribution is planting tools provided by FVC and 10 person days of estimated volunteer support.	NS	
	Improve habitat	Collect species and or habitat information to inform future management of the site	Monitoring report(s) created	FVC Staff: Implement monitoring efforts outlined in the management plan.	NS	This activity is dependent on the recommendations made in the management plan.
	Improve habitat	Undertake habitat enhancement or restoration activities on the property	Approximately 100 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Undertake habitat restoration/enhancement activities as outlined in the management plan. For example may include off channel habitat creation or wetland enhancement. Addition contribution includes matching funds for FVC staff time, supplies, and contractor for implementation.	NS	This activity is dependent on the recommendations made in the management plan.

Horsefly River

5-347

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 5-347

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area

Project Leader Name: Sarah Bayliff

Name of Organization: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Reporting Year 1 of 3

Date of Report: March 27th, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader): Same as above.

Name of Organization: Same as above.

Contact Information: Same as above.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

NCC staff attended the Horsefly River Salmon Festival in September 2023 and shared information about the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area (HRRCA), including the ongoing fencing work funded through HCTF. Community members, local government, conservation partners, and members of the Horsefly River Roundtable were pleased to hear of the fencing work being done to limit cattle access into the Horsefly River and surrounding riparian areas.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

NCC staff attended the Horsefly River Salmon Festival in September 2023 and shared information about the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area (HRRCA), including the ongoing fencing work funded through HCTF. Community members, local government, conservation partners, and members of the Horsefly River Roundtable were pleased to hear of the fencing work being done to limit cattle access into the Horsefly River and surrounding riparian areas.

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 File name and Photo Description:
File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year1Report_Photo1

Description: New fencing along the riparian area of the Horsefly River. This fencing will prevent cattle from entering the Horsefly River when grazing on NCC lands. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

Photo 2 File name and Photo Description:
File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year1Report_Photo2

Description: New fencing along property line of NCC's HRRCA. This fencing will prevent cattle trespass from neighboring private lands. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

Photo 3 File name and Photo Description:
File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year1Report_Photo3

Description: New fencing along the perimeter of the hayfield, bordering Patenaude Creek. This fencing will prevent cattle from entering Patenaude Creek when grazing on NCC lands. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

4. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

N/A. No capital assets purchased during year 1 of funding.

Provide any other information about this project you wish to share with HCTF. E.g. Discuss any roadblocks or unexpected issues impacting project progress.

If this is your **final report** please include a short summary of any lessons learned, unexpected benefits and project highlights.

The majority of fence improvements were successfully completed in year 1 of funding. Year 2 and 3 of funding will focus majorly on monitoring and maintenance of the new fence line. HCTF's Land Stewardship Grant is a great fund for land trusts. Fencing is a necessary, yet expensive, activity in areas where cattle are present to help properly manage grazing and protect sensitive habitat. Thank you for recognizing the importance of this work and supporting these activities.

5. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.		
Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	March 27, 2024	Sarah Bayliff

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 5-347

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area	Enhance the condition of shoreline and riparian habitat of the Horsefly River	Improve the condition of riparian vegetation and reduce sedimentaion by limiting cattle access along the Horsefly River	Grazing pasture fencelines along riparian areas are replaced and repaired as needed to restrict cattle access to restoration project areas and riparian habitat along the Horsefly River.	Develop a plan to prioritize fencing and strategize fenceline placement along riparian habitat.	IP	Activity 1) Riparian fencing plans and priorities for 2023 were determined by NCC staff and contractor was hired to complete fence construction. Plans and priorities for future riparian fencing will be determined throughout 2024 field season after determining how cattle movements adjust with new fencing in place. Activity 2) In October 2023, 1715 m of wildlife friendly fencing was installed along the Horsefly River and Patenaude Creek to prevent cattle from accessing these riparian areas. Acitvity 3) Monitoring of fence and cattle use occurred in late-October 2023 and February 2024. Fence monitoring and maintenance will be ongoing throughout 2024.
				Repair and construct approximately 2 km of wildlife friendly riparian fencing along the Horsefly River.	IP	
				Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle in restoration project areas and riparian habitat. Complete riparian health assessments to assess progress of conservation goal.	IP	
	Control livestock tresspass on property	Prevent cattle access from neighbouring properties and range tenures and associated grazing and trailing on property	Property perimeter fences are replaced and repaired as needed to prevent cattle at large from entering the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.	Develop a plan to determine priority for property perimeter fencelines	IP	Activity 1) Property perimeter fencing plans and priorities for 2023 were determined by NCC staff and contractor was hired to complete fence construction. Plans and priorities for future property perimeter fencing will be determined throughout 2024 field season after determining how cattle movements adjust with new fencing in place. Activity 2) In October 2023, 390 m of property perimeter fencing was installed along NCC property boundaries. Additionally, 1600 m of fencing was repaired as needed along the roadside to prevent cattle tresspass. Activity 3) Monitoring of fence and cattle use occurred in late October 2023 and February 2024. Fence monitoring and maintenance will be ongoing throughout 2024.
				Repair and replace approximately 850 m of wildlife friendly fencing along property perimeters.	IP	
				Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle trespass. Monitor cover of Reed Canary Grass to assess progress of conservation goal.	IP	

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

8-500

Land Stewardship Grant 2023 -2026
REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: _8-500____

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

Project Leader Name: Barbara Craven

Name of Organization: BC Small Wetlands Association

Reporting Year __1__ of 3

Date of Report: March 21, 2024

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

Students attended a cultural ecological outreach at the Park for Earth Day as well as a wetland study afternoon. Throughout the day, groups of fifty students came to the Park to plant trees and shrubs in two mini forests and to learn about their traditional uses through Secwepemc Elders from the Splats'in Band. Numbered flags in two prearranged grids corresponding to numbered tags on trees and shrubs indicated where each one was to be planted. The trees were interspersed with native shrubs including red osier dogwood, saskatoon berry, tall oregon grape and twinberry. A total of 347 students participated throughout the day to plant 347 trees and shrubs. At the end of September, community members volunteered their time to help create a Healing Forest at the Park https://www.smallwetlands.com/healing-forest/ using trees and shrubs shipped from Richmond BC by the Garden City Conservation Society, one of BCSWA's collaborative partners in mini forest initiatives.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

Link to the Stewardship page on the BCSWA website:
https://www.smallwetlands.com/wetland-heritage-park/stewardship/

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:linkedInArticle:7098351164072628226/
LinkedIn article. August 2023

3. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 File name and Photo Description: Tree selection mini forest one.jpg: Students find their numbered tree to plant by the corresponding flag.
Photo 2 File name and Photo Description: Wetland study group of students.jpg: Staff and students study flora and fauna in the two wetland ponds
Photo 3 File name and Photo Description: Mini forest planting for Earth Day.jpg: Students work in harmony to plant two mini forests for Earth Day
Photo 4 File name and Photo Description: Splatsin Elders.jpg: Splats'in Counsellor Jean Brown and Secwepemc Knowledge Keeper Gloria Morgan (in ribbon skirt) talk to students and answer questions on everything from traditional plants to residential schools

Provide any other information about this project you wish to share with HCTF. Eg. Discuss any roadblocks or unexpected issues impacting project progress.

If this is your **final report** please include a short summary of any lessons learned, unexpected benefits and project highlights.

Because of extreme drought conditions in summer 2023, several large fissures appeared in the dry ground in areas of the Park. Although this didn't prevent any programs from proceeding, we had to post caution signs for safety first in some places and ask people to avoid those areas. This issue did correct itself due to heavy rains in the late fall.

4. SIGNATURE

Certified that the project has been completed as reported and this report is an accurate reflection of project activities and expenditures per the HCTF Grant Agreement.

Proponent Signature	Date	Print Name
	March 26, 2023	Barbara Craven

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting Test Template Project Number ___8-500

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 1 (C, IP, NS)	Year 1 - Summary of progress towards each Objective
Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Riparian planting and replacing trees and shrubs affected by drought and animal grazing.	250 willow whips planted, 75 trees replaced, 400 x 2 gallon new trees and shrubs planted, 5 new culturally important plants introduced	Research drought tolerant replacement trees and shrubs "Ministry of FLNR "Tree Book". In April contract Sagebrush Native Nursery to grow additiuonal trees and shrubs to be delivered for planting in Sept.	C	Based on our research, BCSWA ordered more ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and water birch and less douglas fir than in previous years. Surprisingly , the water birch flourished in spite of extreme drought in summer 2023. Many douglas fir from previous years are dying or not thriving and Sagebrush Nursery reported they have been experiencing the same in spite of their extensive experience as growers. Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers Lorna Thomas and Bonnie Thomas are providing traditional cultural uses for wapato, common yarrow and prairie sage, three of the plants that were introduced to the Park in 2023. Interpretive signage will be created for these plants in spring 2024. More than 430 trees were planted in 2023, this included replacing twenty trees that didn't thrive due to drought and girdling.
				Create additional interpretive signage for new species in the park with input from Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers	IP	
				Source culturally important plants that no longer grow in the area: Secwepemc People & Plants, University of Victoria. Dr. Nancy Turner et al 2016, plant each fall, cut willow whips when dormant	IP	
	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update management and stewardship plan for next three years using current data on plant and animal communities to inform management priorities	2023-2026 Park Resource Management and Stewardship plan completed and published	Inventories completed by staff and contractors	IP	BCSWA is updating inventories to include plants, trees and shrubs added in 2023. The management plan is being revised in 2024 to reflect changing priorities and activities associated with pioneering mini forests in the BC Interior.
				Results incorporated into new management plan and priorities/activites updated accordingly	IP	
	Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update inventory of trees and monitor carbon sequestration by trees, shrubs, plants and grasses, on a worksheet that calculates carbon storage by species, age and size.	Master spreadsheet updated 50 students participate in annual inventory, carbon storage increases by 1.05 tonnes year over year	Liaise with school board to arrange student group attendance days	IP	BCSWA is working with School District 83 Indigenous Student councillor Victoria Jewel to organize groups of students to carry out carbon storage inventories each year starting in spring 2024
				Provide tools for tree measurement and data recording events	IP	
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Youth learn about densely planted pocket forests and help with planting	Two pocket forests created	Staff and forestry expert select tree and shrub mix in March 2023,2024,2025 for three pocket forests, resource: "The Miyawaki Method for Creating Forests"	C	With the assistance of Caroline Whyte, forestry expert at Sagebrush Nursery In Oliver, we selected pioneer native species to plant in two mini forests on the Friday prior to Earth Day 2023. The species included Paper birch, Black hawthorn, trembling aspen, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine and chokecherry. We arranged with Len Wood Middle school staff in Armstrong for groups of fifty students to come to the Park throughout the day to plant trees in two prearranged grids populated with numbered flags to indicate where each tree should be planted. The trees were interspersed with native shrubs including red osier dogwood, saskatoon berry, tall oregon grape and twinberry. Secwepemc Elders from Splats'in and Neskonlith Bands were present to talk to the youth. Two more mini forests are planned for 2025.
				Arrange planting events, April- May 2023 and 2024 and contact youth organizations to sign up participants	IP	
				Contract Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers and forestry experts to speak to youth	IP	
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Community members participate in invasive species removal	Removal of 75% of Canada thistle, burdock and Scentless Camomile	Staff and expert consultant conduct baseline inventories, research best management practices (BMPs), consult local Invasive Species Council, and prepare Invasive Species Management Plan	NS	Planned for spring 2025
				Provide tools and equipment to host annual invasive species removal days	NS	
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Provide Information kiosk to keep community organizations and visitors to the park up to date on volunteer opportunities.	Information kiosk constructed at entrance to the park	Construct information kiosk	IP	Information kiosk construction underway, completion in spring 2024. Volunteer database implemented and in the process of being populated with data
				Create task list to be updated weekly and posted on Board. Post information on Events	NS	
				Maintain volunteer data base and updated task list	IP	
	Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Invite local landowners, Secwepemc Elders and local dignitaries to annual Open House and forest garden harvest	5 landowners express an interest in creating wetland areas on their land	Carry out maintenance and repairs as necessary on observation platform, pavilion and benches. Create post and chain fences to prevent access to sensitive wetland areas	IP	Repairs were carried out in summer 2023 to stabilize the observation platform, picnic benches were repaired and roof panels were also repaired on the pavilion. Post and chain fences to be installed in spring 2024. Secwepemc Elders and community members attended an Open House for the creation of a Healing Garden at the Park on September 30th 2023.
				Schedule for Sept 30th each year, organize pop up tents and extra seating, arrange honorariums for Elders	IP	