

CONDITIONAL GRANT AGREEMENT – INVASIVE MUSSEL MONITORING GRANT

This Conditional Grant Agreement (the “**Agreement**”) is made effective as of April 1, 2026, between:

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, As Trustee of the Habitat Conservation Trust (“HCTF”)

And:

The organization identified as the Recipient Organization in the Grant Approval Notification (“Recipient”)

BACKGROUND:

- A. The Recipient has submitted a Proposal seeking the Grant Amount identified in the Grant Approval Notification to assist with the Project.
- B. In furtherance of the foregoing, the HCTF wishes to assist the Recipient with the Project by providing a Conditional Grant based on the terms of this Agreement.

IN CONSIDERATION OF the Grant Amount identified in the Grant Approval Notification and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is acknowledged by the parties hereto, HCTF and the Recipient agree as follows:

1. DEFINED TERMS AND APPENDICES

1.1 **Definitions:** In this Agreement the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

“**Accountable Advance**” means any portion of the Conditional Grant advanced to the Recipient to be applied against Eligible Costs only, and which may become repayable, as provided for in this Agreement;

“**Agreement**” means this Agreement, including all Appendices and all amendments to this Agreement;

“**Appendices**” means the attachments to this Agreement, including without limitation the Sample and Data Submission Procedures;

“**Conditional Grant**” means the funding HCTF agrees to provide to the Recipient;

“**Eligible Costs**” means the costs and expenses that are set out in the Proposal as amended by the Funding Conditions and board comments, incurred after April 1st 2026, and which are in the reasonable opinion of the HCTF, necessarily and properly incurred by the Recipient in connection with the Project;

“**Funding Conditions**” means restrictions and other conditions imposed by HCTF on the Project as set out in the Grant Approval Notification and that must be addressed in writing by the Recipient and approved by HCTF prior to the Recipient receiving any part of the Conditional Grant;

“**Grant Amount**” means the total dollar value of funding to be provided by HCTF, as identified in the Grant Approval Notification;

“Grant Approval Notification” means the email sent to the Project Leader which includes information specific to the Project, such as the Grant Amount and Funding Conditions;

“Grant Report” means a report detailing Project processes, outcomes, and financial expenditures completed within the Survey Apply platform in order to provide HCTF with reasonable assurance that the Recipient has used the Conditional Grant for its intended purpose;

“HCTF’s Website” means the website set up by HCTF and found at www.hctf.ca

“Material” means accounting records, findings, data, specifications, drawings, reports, and documents created by the Recipient for this Project;

“Project” means the work or undertaking identified by the Recipient in its Proposal and for which HCTF has agreed to provide the Conditional Grant as set out in this Agreement;

“Project Leader” means the individual who was identified as the Project Leader in the Proposal. Project Leaders are responsible for all aspects of their Project, and meeting the deliverables identified in their Proposal. The Recipient is ultimately responsible for ensuring the Project Leaders fulfill all their assigned obligations as set out in this Agreement and otherwise;

“Proposal” means the proposal submitted by the Recipient to HCTF;

“Survey Apply” means the online platform through which Proposals, Grant Reports, and other documents are submitted.

1.2 **Appendices:** Each of the Appendices to this Agreement form an integral part of this Agreement as if set out in the body of this Agreement, and the Recipient will comply with all of the terms of the Appendices. If there is a conflict or inconsistency between any of the terms of any of the following, then the order of precedence will be:

- (a) this Agreement; and then
- (b) the Sample and Data Submission Procedures.

2. **CONDITIONAL GRANT**

2.1 The Project will start April 1, 2026 and must be completed by November 30, 2026.

2.2 The Conditional Grant is for the period set out in Section 2.1 only. Any future funding for this Project beyond this period requires the submission and approval of a new proposal for each subsequent year. HCTF will not be liable to the Recipient in any way if funding is not provided beyond the period set out in Section 2.1.

2.3 The Conditional Grant is to be spent on the Project, as specified in the Proposal including any modifications from the Funding Conditions or board comments. Prior written approval by HCTF is required for any changes to activities or budgets related to the Project.

2.4 The Grant Amount is conditional on compliance by the Recipient with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, including any terms and conditions which may reduce funding.

- 2.5 The HCTF will provide the Recipient with a Conditional Grant to a maximum of the Grant Amount, as follows:
- (a) an Accountable Advance of 70%, following:
 - (i) the execution and delivery of this Agreement; and
 - (ii) satisfactory evidence Funding Conditions have been satisfied; and
 - (b) a final payment of up to 30% upon Project completion, submission of an HCTF approved Grant Report, and an invoice requesting final payment. The final 30% represents a holdback and is not an Accountable Advance. The Recipient must submit the Grant Report and final invoice by no later than November 30th, 2026.
- 2.6 The Recipient must return to HCTF any portion of the Conditional Grant not spent by Recipient within 60 days of Project completion.
- 2.7 HCTF may, at its sole discretion, refuse to make a payment if outstanding Grant Reports or other deliverables exist relating to any other contractual obligations the Recipient may have with HCTF.
- 2.8 Despite any other terms of this Agreement, HCTF may deduct from any payment:
- (a) any costs claimed by the Recipient that HCTF, acting reasonably, deems not to be Eligible Costs;
 - (b) any adjustments HCTF is entitled to make under this Agreement; and
 - (c) any amounts the Recipient owes HCTF for any reason.

3. REPORTING

- 3.1 The Recipient must submit a Grant Report within Survey Apply prior to November 30th, 2026. A Grant Report consists of written commentary on the completed activities and outcomes of the Project and a listing that accounts for all expenditures paid on the Project. Grant Reports must follow the instructions provided by HCTF or located on HCTF's Website, including the submission of required attachments.
- 3.2 Failure to submit a Grant Report by the deadline in Section 3.1 constitutes an event of default and may result in HCTF disallowing Eligible Costs, requiring the Recipient to repay all or a portion of the Conditional Grant, or any other action identified under Section 11.
- 3.3 When submitting a Grant Report, the Recipient must also submit a reasonable number of high-quality digital photos of any fieldwork components of the Project.
- 3.4 If the Grant Report (or other reporting deliverable such as the final invoice) is incomplete or otherwise not satisfactory to HCTF (acting reasonably), then, in addition to any other remedies set out in this Agreement, HCTF may require the Recipient to revise the Grant Report or other deliverable.
- 3.5 Project information and data, including any information, reports or documents submitted by the Recipient, may be shared with the Provincial and/or Federal government. Information may be entered into a database or other platform that is accessible to the general public. Project Leader contact information may also be shared for the purposes of discussing the project, sharing the results, or obtaining additional relevant information such as project boundaries.

4. DUTIES OF THE RECIPIENT

4.1 The Recipient will:

- (a) complete the Project on or before November 30th, 2026;
- (b) submit the Grant Report on or before November 30th, 2026;
- (c) permit access by HCTF or its delegate at all reasonable times to the work sites or Project areas which are or have been the subject of this Agreement, including participating in an evaluation of the Project. Access to cultural or archaeological sites is excluded from this clause and will not need to be provided to HCTF;
- (d) not exceed the Eligible Costs as set out in the Proposal, including any modifications in the Funding Conditions;
- (e) provide all equipment, materials, supplies, labour, supervision and accommodation necessary to perform the work necessary to complete the Project;
- (f) exercise the standard of care, skill and diligence normally exercised and observed by competent persons engaged in the performance of activities similar to the Project;
- (g) ensure that all health and safety standards are met;
- (h) ensure that it and any employees, Subcontractors, volunteers or agents employed on the Project are competent, properly trained and instructed as required to undertake and successfully complete the Project;
- (i) provide an update on Project plans and activities, either in writing or verbally when requested to do so by HCTF, within two weeks of such a request;
- (j) provide for any on-going Project operations and maintenance activities and related costs for the reasonable life expectancy of any Project that involves infrastructure development or building or creating a structure, including but not limited to signage, trails, fencing, weirs, and dams. This includes any activities or costs that extend beyond completion of the Project;
- (k) provide, to the best of their ability, stewardship and financial support for any on-going operations and maintenance activities and related costs for the Project that may or may not be set out in the Proposal as amended by the Funding Conditions, including any activities or costs that extend beyond the completion of the Project;
- (l) follow the Sample and Data Submission Procedures instructions provided in Appendix 1 of this Agreement;
- (m) complete field sampling following procedures outlined in the 2026 British Columbia Dreissenid Mussel Lake Monitoring Field Protocol which can be found on HCTF's Website;
- (n) collect and retain any Project data that HCTF requires to be collected through the duration of the Project. Data collection requirements include any data collection identified in the proposal, and any additional requirements that HCTF provides in writing. Data collected must be provided to HCTF within two weeks of HCTF submitting a request and must be submitted in the format directed by HCTF. Cultural and archaeological data is excluded from this clause and will not need to be provided to HCTF.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 The Recipient will recognize support from HCTF and the Province of BC in all signage, publications, presentations, or other communications by the Recipient in respect of the Project in accordance with the communications guidelines posted on HCTF's Website.
- (a) The Recipient will cooperate with HCTF in any additional communications initiatives by HCTF in respect of the Project.
 - (b) HCTF may share Recipient's contact information with interested members of the media or public for purposes of reviewing and discussing Project objectives and outcomes.

6. RECORDS AND AUDITS

- 6.1 The Recipient must:
- (a) keep books of account for a period of five (5) years after the completion of the Project or termination of this Agreement;
 - (b) permit HCTF or its delegate to examine and copy and take away copies of any or all of the books of account that may be reasonably necessary or desirable in the evaluator's opinion to verify the Recipient's compliance with this Agreement;
 - (c) within fifteen (15) days of receiving a request from HCTF, submit further documentation, verification or information to support the Eligible Costs claimed.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 7.1 The Recipient agrees to keep confidential any information HCTF requests in writing to be kept confidential. Confidentiality requirements may be waived or amended by mutual agreement of the Parties.

8. SUBCONTRACTING

- 8.1 The Recipient may not assign or subcontract this Agreement in whole or in part without the prior written consent of HCTF. If a subcontractor is listed in the Proposal, this is considered sufficient written consent unless the Funding Conditions state otherwise.

9. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

- 9.1 The Recipient will indemnify and hold harmless HCTF, its employees and agents (collectively referred to in this Paragraph as "HCTF") from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, actions, causes of action, costs and expenses of whatsoever kind or nature that HCTF may incur, suffer or be put to either before or after the expiration or termination of this Agreement, by reason of any wrongful act or omission of the Recipient, its employees, officers, directors, shareholders or agents, or any Subcontractors or supplier of materials or services or any of their employees, officers, directors, shareholders or agents, as a result of or in any way arising out of this Agreement, the actions of the Recipient, or the Project, except where, and to the extent that, the loss, claim, damage, action, cause of action, cost or expense arises from the negligence or willful default of HCTF. Such indemnification survives the termination or expiration of this Agreement and any sub-contract.

- 9.2 Without limiting its obligations or liabilities under this Agreement, and at its own expense, the Recipient must obtain and maintain insurance which it is required to have by law and insurance which a prudent businessperson conducting similar operations would obtain and maintain to cover the risks it has assumed or may encounter as a result of entering into this Agreement or completing the Project.
- 9.3 All the foregoing insurance will be primary and not require the sharing of any loss by any insurer of HCTF.
- 9.4 The Recipient will obtain Comprehensive/Commercial General Liability in an amount not less than \$2,000,000.00 inclusive per occurrence against bodily injury and property damage, and will add HCTF as an additional insured under the policy.
- 9.5 The Recipient hereby waives all rights of recourse against HCTF with regard to damage to the Recipient's property.
- 9.6 HCTF assumes no liability for loss, injury, or damage suffered or caused as a result of this Project.

10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 10.1 HCTF acknowledges and agrees that the Recipient owns all right, title and interest in the Material and intellectual property arising from the Project under this Agreement, subject to any Recipient creator owned intellectual property policies.
- 10.2 The Recipient grants HCTF a perpetual non-exclusive, irrevocable, world-wide, fully paid up and royalty-free license to use, make, copy, distribute, translate, reproduce, or to further develop or update all such intellectual property or other property resulting from or generated by the Project for any purpose under section 122 (1) *BC Wildlife Act*, including a license to use all submitted photo images free of charge to HCTF for the non-exclusive use in promoting HCTF. If requested by the Recipient, and if a photo is used by HCTF, photo credit will be given to the photographer.

11. EVENTS OF DEFAULT

- 11.1 The Recipient is in default of this Agreement if the Recipient defaults in the performance or observance of any part of this Agreement.
- 11.2 If any event of default occurs, HCTF may give written notice thereof to the Recipient and provide the Recipient with 15 days to cure the default, following which HCTF may, at its sole discretion, do any or all of the following:
- (a) terminate this Agreement;
 - (b) withhold, or suspend payment of, all or a portion of the Conditional Grant;
 - (c) disallow the Eligible Costs associated with the Project;
 - (d) require the Recipient to repay HCTF all or a portion of the Conditional Grant;
 - (e) use the withheld or repaid portion of the Conditional Grant to remedy the Event of Default; or
 - (f) take any other reasonable action HCTF considers appropriate.

12. TERMINATION

- 12.1 This Agreement may be terminated by either party for any reason on thirty (30) days' written notice. The Recipient may claim all Eligible Costs incurred up to the date on which the written notice of termination is given but not thereafter.
- 12.2 If this Agreement is terminated, no claim will be made by the Recipient for damages or losses occasioned by that termination, and HCTF will be under no further obligation to the Recipient except for Eligible Costs properly incurred up to the date of termination.
- 12.3 If this Agreement ends for any reason and HCTF determines that the Recipient owes money to HCTF, the Recipient will promptly repay money owing to HCTF.

13. RELATIONSHIP

- 13.1 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to make the Recipient an employee, partner, or agent of HCTF for any purpose whatsoever or to establish a partnership or joint venture between the Recipient and HCTF. The Recipient understands that it is not entitled to receive any benefits from HCTF or participate in any employee benefit plan.
- 13.2 The Recipient has no authority to and will not commit HCTF to pay any third party.

14. LAWS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 14.1 This Agreement is governed by and construed in accordance with the laws British Columbia. The Recipient will comply with all applicable laws relating to the Project and will obtain and comply with all permits or other governmental authorizations required to permit the Recipient to carry out the Project.
- 14.2 All Recipient Material, information and reports provided to HCTF may be subject to disclosure in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (British Columbia).

15. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 15.1 The Parties agree that any dispute which cannot be resolved by the parties using reasonable efforts will be resolved by arbitration by a single arbitrator under the *BC Arbitration Act*.

16. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

- 16.1 This Agreement is the entire agreement between the Parties regarding the Conditional Grant and no promises, representations, understandings, or contracts, whether oral or written, exist between the Parties with respect to the Conditional Grant, except as expressly set out in this Agreement.
- 16.2 This Agreement may only be amended by an amendment to this Agreement consented to in writing by the Parties.
- 16.3 The Parties consent to this Agreement being entered into via Survey Apply in electronic form. Each Party is responsible for downloading and retaining this Agreement from Survey Apply. This Agreement may become unavailable on Survey Apply after 90 days.

16.4 Delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to this Agreement by facsimile or email shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed signature page.

17. WAIVER

17.1 No term or breach of this Agreement may be waived, except with the written consent of HCTF. Written waiver in one instance by HCTF of any particular term or breach by the Recipient of this Agreement will not be deemed to be waiver in any subsequent or other instance.

18. FORCE MAJEURE

18.1 If either Party is rendered wholly or partly unable to perform its obligations under this Agreement, other than an ability to make a payment, as a result of an act or event that is beyond the reasonable control or responsibility of that Party, the performance of that Party's obligations will be suspended to the extent so affected, provided that the suspension of performance is of no greater scope and of no longer duration than is reasonably necessary and the non-performing Party uses reasonable efforts to remedy its inability to perform.

19. NOTICES

19.1 All notices will be given in writing via email, as follows:

- (a) The Recipient must contact HCTF via the contact information on HCTF's Website.
- (b) HCTF must contact the Recipient via the contact information provided for the Project Leader provided in the Proposal.

19.2 Unless advised in writing, any financial payments and all legal and administrative documentation that is not delivered electronically will be delivered to the Recipient's address provided in the Proposal.

TO EVIDENCE THEIR AGREEMENT, the Parties have executed this Agreement on the date appearing below.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED on behalf of HCTF by:

_____ Date: April 1, 2026

AND

SIGNED AND DELIVERED on behalf of the Recipient by:

_____ Date: _____

Appendix 1

Sample and Data Submission Procedures

Veliger Plankton Sample and Data Submission Instructions:

- The Chain of Custody (COC) spreadsheet form must be completed and submitted with each shipment of water samples for plankton tow veliger sampling. All samples must be sent to lab designated by the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) for analysis and all the contact information is included on the COC spreadsheet form. The COC form will be available for download on the HCTF website, once the lab has been confirmed by WLRS.
- Samples should be shipped every 2 weeks, or monthly depending on how frequently sampling is occurring. Samples must be sent monthly at a minimum and cannot be left until the end of the season to send all at once.
- Please email an electronic copy of the COC spreadsheet to the lab as well as submitting a hard copy with the shipment of samples. Please compile all submitted COC spreadsheets to submit with your report to HCTF at the end of the season.
- Samples must be buffered and preserved within 3 hours of collection. Keep samples in a cool/dry place until they can be shipped.
- The pH of the sample must be checked first and if below 7 the baking soda buffer solution must be added before the preservative.
- The COC form includes space for all the water quality data collected at the time of sampling so a separate field datasheet does not need to be submitted. **Please note:**
 - GPS coordinates must be filled in as specified in the spreadsheet (Latitude, Longitude in decimal degrees and separate fields)
 - GPS coordinates at the same site should remain consistent throughout the season.
 - Sample site names must be consistent throughout the season and with those used in the approved HCTF proposal.
- Temperature and Secchi data must be collected following standardized protocols in section 6 of the British Columbia Dreissenid Mussel Lake Monitoring Field Protocol. If Secchi data is not collected, proponent must provide rationale.
- Temperature must be collected at every site, however depth integrated measurements are not a requirement (i.e. surface level temperatures are sufficient) and should only be taken if appropriate sampling equipment is available (e.g. probe or sonde). If depth integrated measurements are taken for any parameters please provide the average value in the COC spreadsheet form.
- Please ensure the location (site name), waterbody name and date of sample collection are included in the separate spreadsheet to ensure it can be linked to the information provided in the COC form. As part of year-end reporting, a separate spreadsheet with the total number of plankton samples collected at each site and waterbody must be submitted to HCTF (template will be available on the HCTF website)

- Samples must be sent in disposable boxes and not in coolers. Sample jars will be mailed back to the proponent and this will be done on a monthly basis. The cost to ship sample jars back will be covered by WLRS.
- Results from the sample analysis will be sent directly to WLRS and results will be shared once analysis is complete. Any questions regarding results from sample analysis must be directed to WLRS.

Plankton tow sample collection notes:

- Absolute ethanol or Ethyl Alcohol 200 Proof, or EtOH 200 Proof or 99% isopropyl alcohol is acceptable but DO NOT use denatured ethanol (if it is not possible to source 99% due to supply limitations, 70% isopropyl may be used however this will reduce the overall concentration and samples will need to be shipped and stored at cooler temperatures. Please contact WLRS for instructions on how to preserve the sample if you plan on using 70% isopropyl as an alternative).
- 1000L of water sampled per site (not per tow) is the required volume to sample, this is the total volume sampled across all tows collected at one site (you may need to combine multiple tows to reach the desired volume of 1000L).
- Depth refers to the depth/length of a vertical tow. Length refers to the distance sampled for a horizontal tow.
- **Immediately report any suspected invasive mussels/specimens from plankton samples to the WLRS contact identified below.**

Substrate sampler monitoring data submission:

- For substrate monitoring, the COC form does not need to be completed. A list of the locations and duration of substrate sampler deployment must be submitted to HCTF at the end of the season as Appendix 3 of your Grant Report.
- **Immediately report any suspected invasive mussels to the WLRS contact identified below**
- Follow procedures in section 4.1 of the *Field Protocol*, [BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program \(hctf.ca\)](http://hctf.ca) to collect and preserve a sample if a suspect specimen is detected. If any suspect samples are collected from a substrate sampler it cannot be returned to the water. Please notify WLRS immediately and instruction on where to ship suspect adult samples will be provided.
- The suspected presence of invasive mussels must only be shared with WLRS for species verification as part of the Rapid Response Protocol.

Contact information:

Martina Beck - Unit Head, Freshwater Applied Science and Programs

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Phone: 778-698-4364