



Restoration Planting in Spallumcheen
Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

2025 Approved Stewardship Project List

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

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Ministry of
Water, Land and
Resource Stewardship

Approved Action Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Living with Wildlife on Anarchist Mountain	ACT-162	This collaborative project aims to promote sustainable land stewardship that supports wildlife habitat, reduces human-wildlife conflict, and integrates FireSmart strategies with caring for wildlife habitat. By providing education, technical support, and voluntary stewardship agreements, it will encourage landowners to implement best management practices that benefit species at risk, such as California Bighorn Sheep and Lewis's Woodpecker, while promoting long-term stewardship. Through community engagement, habitat restoration, and ongoing monitoring, this initiative will foster a culture of conservation and ensure private lands contribute to regional biodiversity and wildfire resilience efforts.	\$32,000	Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship
Coldstream Creek Stewards	ACT-163	This project aims to improve riparian habitat along Coldstream Creek by engaging private landowners and local communities in adopting basic stewardship practices such as installing nest boxes for Western Screech-owl, as well as planting riparian forests. Through direct engagement, education, and collaborative partnerships, the initiative will improve riparian area health, reduce habitat fragmentation, and support a thriving ecosystem for wildlife. By working together with landowners, the project will enhance nesting opportunities for the Western Screech-Owl while also improving water quality, stabilizing streambanks, and creating connected habitat corridors.	\$40,250	Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship
PlantWise Party - Getting People in BC Excited to be PlantWise!	ACT-189	The PlantWise project will help plant retailers to phase out invasive species in favour of native or non-invasive alternatives, empowering communities across B.C. to make smart choices when selecting plants.	\$40,025*	Invasive Species Council of BC
Conflict to Coexistence: Showing Human-Grizzly Bear Coexistence is Possible	ACT-219	This project builds on Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiatives' 2024 pilot, using science-based techniques to condition bear behaviour and encourage bear avoidance of high-risk human areas. Beyond direct fieldwork with the bears, Conflict to Coexistence also engages residents through community meetings, workshops, and a 24/7 bear response hotline, integrating local knowledge into conservation efforts. By combining proven deterrent strategies with adaptive management, the initiative enhances public safety, reduces human-bear conflict, and supports long-term grizzly bear recovery.	\$41,500*	Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative
Creating Habitat Stewards in the Craigflower Creek Watershed	ACT-220	Through the Good Neighbours Program, this project seeks to connect with landowners in the headwaters of the Craigflower Creek Watershed north of Victoria and provide them with the knowledge, resources, and incentives to become Habitat Stewards on their property for the long-term health and protection of the land, waters, and wildlife.	\$30,000	Habitat Acquisition Trust

Approved Action Grant Projects

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Bear-Resistant Waste Management for Mobile Home Parks	ACT-227	Six mobile home parks have been identified within the city of Prince George as having particularly high levels of human/bear conflict. All are situated adjacent to major wildlife corridors and/or habitat, and they all use individual household garbage cans for waste disposal, with a lack of secure garbage storage. Through this project, the Northern Bear Awareness Society will assist residents and managers of these mobile home parks to significantly reduce the amount of human-bear conflict by making the switch from unsecured garbage carts to bear-resistant carts or dumpsters.	\$16,000	Northern Bear Awareness Society



Habitat Restoration in the Garnet Valley
Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship

Approved Capacity Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Capacity Building for Foodlands Corridor Development	CAP-189	Bringing together agricultural landholders, First Nations rights and title holders, and other community stakeholders to develop a collective restoration vision, the Foodlands program addresses both environmental and cultural concerns, creating a space for cross-cultural learning, together, on the land and about the land. This project will provide capacity funding for the implementation of two new corridors: Bell Slough and Nechako-Stoney Creek.	\$25,000	Rivershed Society of BC
BC Bee Atlas Capacity Building	CAP-190	This project will respond to pollinator declines by training community scientists in bee survey and identification techniques. These community scientists will create a detailed record of the 500+ bee species present in B.C., where and when they occur, and what plant species they utilize. This vital data will detect changes to species distributions in response to habitat and climate changes and inform conservation plans for all rights holders.	\$25,000	Native Bee Society of BC
Skwłāx Traditional Knowledge Building Initiative	CAP-209	This project aims to address the need to ensure that the Nation's Guardians can apply Skwłāx's traditional ecological knowledge, cultural protocols, and the Secwépemc language to contemporary environmental stewardship practices. By creating opportunities for direct knowledge transfer between Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Guardians through knowledge-building workshops, the initiative supports intergenerational learning, strengthens participants' connection to Secwépemc culture, and reinforces the Guardians' role as knowledge holders and protectors of the land.	\$17,880	Skwłāx te Secwepemcúlecw
Ndi yun neghuhinli – We are the Caretakers of the Land	CAP-233	This project will develop a comprehensive Wildlife Population and Land Use Plan that aligns with the Nak'azdli Whut'en Land Stewardship Plan, enhancing wildlife and habitat protections across 25,820 km ² of traditional territory. Building on established conservation targets for forests and wildlife, the plan integrates traditional Indigenous knowledge with Western data collection methods to guide long-term monitoring, habitat mapping, and the management of disturbance indicators. Co-developed through community and key stakeholders' workshops with technical experts, the final roadmap will inform future land use decisions by identifying high conservation value habitats for protection and areas for restoration that reflect the community's vision and stewardship practices.	\$25,000	Nak'azdli Whut'en
Knowing our Fish Creeks on Chá7elkwnech/ Gambier Island	CAP-246	This project is working to increase stream stewardship capacity and fill knowledge gaps within the Átl'ka7tsem/Howe Sound UNESCO Biosphere Region, with a current focus on Chá7elkwnech/Gambier Island. Through collaboration with stewardship groups, governments, and private landowners, it seeks to enhance baseline monitoring efforts and ultimately increase local involvement and capacity such that there are systems and people in place to sustain long-term watershed stewardship activities in support of biodiversity conservation and informed decision-making for the conservation of fish, amphibians, wildlife, and freshwater habitats.	\$5,200	Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative Society

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Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Plant Identification Training for Saulteau First Nations and Aski Employees	CAP-250	This project will provide a culturally tailored plant identification course for the Saulteau First Nations and Aski technical team to enhance community-led conservation efforts through building essential botanical skills. The course will support preliminary planning and capacity building to address habitat conservation and restoration challenges, including climate change adaptation and caribou habitat restoration within local ecosystems.	\$25,000	Aski Reclamation Limited Partnership wholly owned by Saulteau First Nations
Building Capacity for the Katzie First Nation Guardian Program	CAP-252	Watershed management often lacks the involvement and leadership of First Nations, limiting the integration of Indigenous knowledge and long-term conservation perspectives. This project focuses on a watershed located on the southern coast of B.C., in the territory of the Katzie First Nation, and aims to support the Nation in fulfilling the following objectives: 1) Develop a terrestrial biodiversity monitoring program using data from land surveys, camera trapping, acoustic monitoring, and non-invasive genetic sampling, which will complement current Katzie-led habitat enhancement and monitoring projects; 2) Strengthen the Katzie Guardian Program capacity to lead terrestrial wildlife monitoring projects and build technical field skills.	\$25,000*	Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Aski's Forests for Carbon and Caribou	CAP-262	Aski Reclamation LP will purchase a multispectral drone and a desktop computer for processing drone imagery to support their caribou road restoration program. The drone will improve fieldwork productivity by facilitating pre-restoration site assessments, post-planting vegetation monitoring, and more. This specialized equipment will increase Aski's technical capacity and complement current sources of funding.	\$9,840	Aski Reclamation Limited Partnership wholly owned by Saulteau First Nations
The BC Wild and Domestic Sheep Stewardship Program: Long-Term Capacity	CAP-264	The BC Sheep Separation Program has been an informal "working group" of wildlife biologists, wild sheep conservationists, veterinarians, and domestic sheep and goat farmers working together on and off for 25 years to try to find a solution to the greatest threat facing wild sheep - the transmission of respiratory bacteria from domestic sheep and goats to wild sheep. The effort has struggled over the years in part due to its lack of formal structure and strategic planning. A core group of current program members will work with a strategic organizational and governance consultant with expertise in the agriculture and natural resource sectors to create a strategic plan and a focused formal program that supports long-term wild sheep conservation in B.C.	\$8,000*	Phyla Biological Consulting Inc
Elk Root Conservation Pollinator Highway Stewardship Program	CAP-266	Elk Root Conservation's Pollinator Highway Stewardship Program (PHSP) is an innovative, community-driven initiative aimed at revitalizing native pollinator populations in the Slocan Valley by transforming degraded roadside spaces, currently overtaken by invasive species, into vibrant, pollinator-friendly habitats filled with native flowering plants. The PHSP will build on 2024's phase one work by empowering local landowners, land managers, and NGO volunteers along the Pollinator Highway Project route with the knowledge and tools needed to care for these habitats until they become established, ensuring they flourish and become self-sustaining, driving the expansion and success of the project in the Slocan Valley to create a long-lasting environmental and community impact.	\$20,000	Elk Root Conservation Farm Society

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Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Restoring the Balance Through Building Capacity to Steward Forests	CAP-267	This project will increase the capacity of the Galiano Island community to safely and effectively restore and enhance forested habitat by providing Certified Faller training for a local Indigenous forest worker.	\$25,000	Galiano Conservancy Association
St'át'imc Grizzly Bear Guardianship Program	CAP-268	This project aims to support the recovery of the critically endangered Stein Nahatlatch grizzly bear population by providing Indigenous-led solutions to mitigate potential human-bear conflict and promote coexistence within the Sekw'el'was Territory. With continuing pressure from recreational activities within critical habitat and along historical grizzly bear connectivity routes, on-the-ground support is needed to prevent unnecessary mortality resulting from human habituation and food conditioning. This project is essential to create an internal St'át'imc Nation Grizzly Bear Response Team who will conduct outreach and education within communities in response to developing situations with the potential of escalating to human-bear conflicts.	\$16,000	Splitrock Environmental Sekw'el'was LP



Bighorn Sheep M.ovi Sampling
Phyla Biological Consulting

Approved Community Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Vanier Nature Park Garry Oak Grove Restoration	COM-127	Vanier Nature Park in the Comox Valley is home to an endangered, rare example of a wetland Garry oak ecosystem. These ecosystems support a diverse suite of plants, animals, and insects, and they are drought- and fire-tolerant. Comox Valley Naturalists Society has begun to restore this oak grove by "releasing" the Garry oaks to sun and improved health by removing invasive plants and reducing over-topping firs to wildlife snags.	\$3,904	Comox Valley Naturalists Society
Providing Alternative Den Sites for Chunih Cho (Fishers)	COM-128	This project addresses habitat loss for Chunih Cho (fishers) by designing and deploying artificial den boxes in heavily fragmented forests as a conservation strategy. By studying den box occupancy, reproductive success, and habitat preferences, their effectiveness in supporting fisher populations and mitigating the impacts of habitat degradation will be evaluated. This research will provide evidence-based guidelines for scaling up den box programs, offering a practical solution to enhance habitat and promote the recovery of this important mesocarnivore.	\$7,200	Nak'azdli Whut'en
Nature is for Everyone	COM-129	Just as the forest thrives through diversity, so do we as a society. "Nature is for Everyone" is an innovative multi-year project in South Vancouver, welcoming those who may face barriers to participation in stewardship. In Phase 2 of the project, seniors will be welcomed to connect with nature and help improve the forest ecosystem.	\$10,000	Free the Fern Stewardship Society
View Royal Park Ecocultural Fencing	COM-132	This project will enhance vital estuarine habitat for coastal cutthroat trout, coho salmon, and other salmonids by expanding ecocultural fencing, marsh creation, and long-term monitoring. In partnership with Songhees, Esquimalt, and Tsartlip Stewardship Teams, this project will protect native vegetation, improve fish habitat, and contribute to regional estuary restoration efforts. Findings will directly inform the Tidal Marsh and Estuary Working Group, co-led by Guardians of our Salish Estuaries and Pacific Salmon Foundation, helping develop best practices for tidal marsh conservation across the region.	\$9,000	Peninsula Streams Society
Return of the Kokanee Salmon	COM-134	Efforts are underway on Kootenay Lake to replenish depleted stock of kokanee salmon. Spawner counts in 2024 revealed considerably more kokanee than expected, using the upper reaches of Summit Creek, formerly an important spawning tributary on the south arm of Kootenay Lake. Through this project, counts will again take place in 2025 to help determine preferred salmon habitat on the creek and where to best plant kokanee eggs to help increase their numbers on the south arm of Kootenay Lake.	\$2,056	Creston Valley Rod & Gun Club
Wetland Restoration Workshop at Forslund-Watson Conservation Area	COM-136	This collaborative project will construct an ephemeral groundwater wetland as part of British Columbia Institute of Technology's ecological restoration bachelor's degree program. It will expand upon previous restoration projects with a long-term goal of creating a complex of functional wetlands that provide diverse habitat and food for birds and amphibians while increasing ecological functions such as water storage and infiltration throughout the site. This project offers students a unique opportunity to apply their academic knowledge directly to real-world restoration efforts, with an emphasis on hands-on learning and collaboration.	\$9,463	British Columbia Institute of Technology

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Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Community Action 2025	COM-137	This project will target two locations in the Columbia Shuswap region where invasive plant management will benefit migratory bird and western painted turtle habitat: a Revelstoke Reach project site targeting Himalayan balsam, and a Shuswap, Salmon Arm Bay foreshore site targeting yellow flag iris and Himalayan balsam. The project will involve at least 30 volunteers completing mechanical invasive plant treatments, as well as four days of Indigenous expertise and learning on project sites.	\$3,500	Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Help Us Help Ducks	COM-138	This project will enhance waterfowl populations in the Omineca region by installing duck nest boxes and hen houses in key wetland habitats. Volunteers will play a vital role in building, installing, and maintaining these structures, providing safe nesting sites for species such as wood ducks, goldeneyes, and mallards, improving nesting success and supporting conservation efforts. This hands-on initiative fosters community involvement while reinforcing Spruce City Wildlife Association's commitment to habitat restoration and wildlife conservation.	\$3,850	Spruce City Wildlife Association
Monitoring and Improving the Ecosystem Health at Pinantan Lake	COM-139	The Pinantan East Paul Lake Community Association is engaging community volunteers to monitor and improve the aquatic health of Pinantan Lake. This project will monitor water quality and clean up decades of shoreline garbage.	\$4,850	Pinantan East Paul Lake Community Association
2025 Kootenay Lake Education & Stewardship Project	COM-141	This project will empower local communities to protect and restore Kootenay Lake through hands-on citizen science, habitat restoration, and educational outreach. The program will engage volunteers in activities such as wetland revitalization, beach cleanups, osprey and kokanee monitoring, and lake stewardship workshops while expanding public awareness. By fostering community involvement and ecological knowledge, the program will strengthen long-term stewardship and improve the overall health of Kootenay Lake and its shoreline ecosystems.	\$10,000	Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society
Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary Violet-green Swallow Monitoring Project	COM-143	South Island Bird Research Network (SIBRN), Special Bird Service, and Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary are excited to come together to create this project to study and protect the Violet-green swallow. While abundant in B.C., very little is known about their breeding behaviours and nesting success; this community monitoring project will help fill in some of the knowledge gaps. Aerial insectivores are in serious decline both nationally and globally, and it is important to monitor the breeding success of swallows at a finer scale to understand the local impact of global climate change.	\$9,000	Special Bird Service Society
Welland Orchard Pollinator Garden Restoration Project	COM-145	This project will continue to support the planting of native plants at Welland Orchard, enhancing biodiversity and pollinator habitat and providing opportunities for volunteers to gain hands on skills for restoration of natural areas.	\$3,250	Lifecycles Project Society
Increasing Habitat for Native Pollinators, Cariboo Heights Forest Burnaby	COM-146	In this project, Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society will work with community members to create a diverse native plant garden that supports native insects, pollinators and birds. They will remove Reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry from an area under a BC Hydro transmission line and replant with native plants. This garden will be used to educate the community about the importance of native plants to support biodiversity and encourage community members to include native plants in their home gardens.	\$1,865	Cariboo Heights Forest Preservation Society

Approved Community Grant Projects

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Hummingbird Monitoring in British Columbia	COM-148	This project trains local teams to collect data on individual hummingbirds, their habitat use, and air quality to enhance understanding of their survival needs. Banding data will go to the Canadian Wildlife Service, and habitat use information will be shared with land managers for better decision-making. The project will also engage communities through outreach activities to promote awareness and shared responsibility for hummingbird conservation.	\$10,000	Rocky Point Bird Observatory Society
Mamquam River Side Channel Resilience	COM-149	This project will enhance the resilience of the Mamquam River's off-channel habitats through community-led restoration efforts to ensure long-term climate adaptability. Volunteers will participate in invasive plant removal, native riparian planting, beaver dam management, and water quality monitoring to improve critical riparian habitat for trout and char species. By fostering awareness and providing hands-on training, this initiative empowers the community with the knowledge and skills to steward their environment effectively.	\$9,980	Squamish River Watershed Society
Elk River Alliance Cuttings Nursery	COM-151	The Elk River Alliance (ERA) will establish a cutting nursery for native tree species such as cottonwood, Red Osier Dogwood, willow and trembling aspen. The nursery will support ERA's Cottonwood Restoration Program, which aims to create wildlife habitat, mitigate flood risks, and prevent erosion along the streambank. The nursery will allow ERA staff and volunteers to produce 5-10,000 plants annually for Elk Valley restoration.	\$4,000	Elk River Watershed Alliance
Ecological Habitat Enhancement, Swan Lake Nature Reserve Park	COM-152	This former agricultural property was secured as a nature reserve in 2005. Native plant species are being re-established on it to provide habitat for birds and other wildlife. Bird houses, bat houses, nesting platforms, and perching poles will also be added to the site.	\$2,600	North Okanagan Naturalists Club
Coquitlam River Watershed Stewardship Initiative	COM-153	The Coquitlam River Watershed is a vital ecological system that supports wild salmon, diverse wildlife, and the cultural heritage of the Kwikwetlem First Nation, but it faces increasing threats from urban development and pollution. Through this initiative, volunteers will remove litter along a stretch of the Coquitlam River and participate in the Yellow Fish Program, marking storm drains and educating residents on pollution prevention. By engaging the community in hands-on conservation and education, this project will help improve water quality, protect fish and wildlife habitats, and inspire long-term watershed stewardship.	\$2,384	Watershed Watch Salmon Society
Firehall & Bilston Creek Riparian Restoration & Signage Projects 2025-2029	COM-154	This project will support educational signage and riparian and instream restoration at locations along Firehall and Bilston Creeks. Educational signage in the upper and lower watershed, and riparian restoration activities in Firehall Creek, will help raise awareness of the vulnerability of the small shallow waterways that characterize the Bilston Watershed. Additional signage will be installed along a new path adjacent to Witty's Lagoon Park in partnership with the Metchosin Foundation and St. Mary's Parish Council. This new path will be part of a Community Education & Engagement hub in partnership with the Metchosin Foundation Bilston Conservation Corridor Project, St. Mary's Parish Council and Bilston Creek Farm.	\$10,000	Bilston Watershed Habitat Protection Association

Approved Community Grant Projects

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Everett Crowley Park: A Home for Native Amphibians	COM-155	Restoration of native amphibian habitat in Everett Crowley Park will promote urban biodiversity in Vancouver and neighbouring municipalities. Through invasive species removal, native replanting, and amphibian habitat surveys, this project supports community engagement, connection with nature, and nature education.	\$7,085	Champlain Heights Community Association - Everett Crowley Park Committee
Wildlife Monitoring & Community Stewardship in Bowen Park	COM-156	Wildcoast Ecologist Society is launching a biodiversity monitoring and stewardship project at Bowen Park in Nanaimo to study bats and amphibians through scientific surveys and community involvement. Volunteers will be trained in species monitoring and habitat restoration, with a focus on protecting species at risk, such as the little brown myotis bat and northern red-legged frog. By combining data collection with public education, this project will enhance conservation efforts, inform best management practices, and foster long-term environmental stewardship in Nanaimo.	\$6,400	Wildcoast Ecological Society
Tranquille Viewing Site Ecological Restoration	COM-157	The purpose of this project is to expand efforts to remove invasive species and restore pollinator-friendly and culturally significant native plants to the Tranquille Viewing Site. Restoring the natural ecology of the area will greatly enhance interpretive learning opportunities ahead of significant infrastructure upgrades at the site in coming years.	\$3,460	Kamloops Naturalist Club
VUFFF - Burrard View Park Food Forest	COM-158	The Burrard View Park Food Forest, planted and stewarded by the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation, will be an urban garden planted using permaculture principles. It will be a space to learn, play, grow food and medicine, and come together.	\$4,000	Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation



Western Screech Owl Nest Box Cleaning
Habitat Acquisition Trust