

## Approved Capacity Grant Projects

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Project Leader
Indigenous Capacity to Identify and Protect Cutthroat Spawning Habitat	CAP-288	This project is a capacity-building and early-stage planning initiative focused on identifying and protecting Coastal Cutthroat Trout (CCT) spawning habitat within the Squamish River watershed. While CCT are widely distributed in the system, their spawning locations, tributary use, and habitat requirements remain poorly documented, particularly in small, high-turbidity, glacially influenced tributaries. This lack of baseline information limits effective habitat protection, cumulative effects assessment, and long-term conservation planning. In partnership with Squamish Nation fisheries staff, the project will deliver hands-on training and field-based capacity building to support the independent identification, assessment, and monitoring of CCT spawning habitat. This work will strengthen Indigenous-led conservation capacity, support climate-aware planning in glacial systems, and prepare the groundwork for future conservation action.	\$25,000*	Riverside Solutions Inc.
Building Capacity Through Collaborative Bat Inventory	CAP-292	The project will strengthen Indigenous-led bat conservation within the St'at'imc Nation by building local technical capacity and expanding monitoring in the Seton and Fraser River corridors. Funding will support technician participation in a July 2026 Bat Capture and Inventory Workshop hosted by N'Quatqua and Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, along with the purchase and deployment of four acoustic bat detectors to collect data on bat activity, habitat use, and overwintering sites. In the face of white-nose syndrome and ongoing pressures from habitat loss, climate change, and resource development, this initiative empowers local technicians to lead long-term, community-based stewardship and inform future conservation planning.	\$25,000*	Splitrock Environmental Sekw'e'l'was
Building Indigenous-Led Capacity for Caribou and Alpine Habitat Stewardship	CAP-294	The Taku River Tlingit First Nation will lead a capacity-building project to document alpine ice patch and glacier recession and assess implications for caribou habitat in the Taku watershed. The project will train youth and staff in field documentation and spatial mapping, and bring partners together to identify conservation priorities and future monitoring needs. This work will support Indigenous-led climate adaptation and stewardship planning within the T'akú Tlatsini Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.	\$25,000*	Taku River Tlingit First Nation
Sq'ewqel Invasive Species Stewardship	CAP-306	Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island Band) will build Early Detection & Rapid Response capacity to contain and/or eradicate localized invasive species affecting Maria Slough and adjacent freshwater wetland/riparian habitats near Agassiz, B.C. The project will complete a mapped baseline and priority response plan, and deliver project-specific training and certifications (e.g., invasive plant response methods, safe use compliance, field monitoring techniques) so staff and community stewards can implement consistent best practices. Deliverables will include GIS layers/maps, standardized monitoring protocols, partner coordination pathways, and a costed, implementation-ready action plan that protects and improves habitat values for B.C.'s fish, wildlife, and their habitats.	\$24,000*	Seabird Island Band

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Fraser Valley Lowlands Raptor Nest-tracking Platform	CAP-319	The Hancock Wildlife Foundation's Fraser Valley Lowlands Raptor Nest-tracking Platform is a fully operational, field-tested digital tool for documenting and monitoring raptor nests and other Section 34 protected species across the Lower Mainland. It addresses a gap in large-scale species occurrence monitoring that integrates secure nest-site tracking for sensitive species while engaging volunteer observers and feeding management-relevant metrics into conservation frameworks. This project will amplify the training, partnership development, and community engagement needed to expand the program, building the long-term monitoring foundation the region needs.	\$21,050*	Hancock Wildlife Foundation
Growing Stewards: Wetland Restoration Capacity in Nanaimo	CAP-320	This project will build capacity for community conservation and restoration through hands-on training and engagement events tied to a wetland enhancement project at East Wellington Park in Nanaimo. Activities will include 3 hands-on workshops, volunteer engagement, and knowledge-sharing opportunities that guide participants through the restoration process from planning through implementation. The project aims to enhance municipal restoration capacity and cultivate a lasting network of informed local stewards equipped to support ongoing habitat conservation at East Wellington Park.	\$25,000*	B.C. Wildlife Federation
Building Indigenous-Led Stewardship: Western Toads	CAP-329	Huu-ay-aht First Nation's Land Guardian Program and Natural Resources team will work with the Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds to build long-term community capacity to take care of a threatened breeding population of Western Toads at Frederick Lake, an important recreational site for community members and visitors. The project will include hands-on training and mentorship in amphibian ecology, habitat management/mitigation, population monitoring, and educational outreach. Guided by the Huu-ay-aht sacred principle of ʔuuʔaʔuk, taking care of present and future generations, it will strengthen a network of Guardians, staff, and community members dedicated to safeguarding the ecological integrity of the lake and surrounding interconnected forest habitats.	\$24,925*	Huu-ay-aht First Nations Government
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	CAP-336	This project will bring together Syilx Nations, conservation partners and land stewards to advance collaborative ecological network planning in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. Building on an initial 2025 connectivity workshop, the project will expand regional engagement, identify shared conservation priorities and knowledge gaps, and begin co-creating a collaborative workplan to guide future implementation. This early-stage planning initiative will strengthen cross-jurisdictional coordination and lay the foundation for long-term ecological connectivity conservation.	\$22,225*	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Gates Creek Habitat Restoration	CAP-337	The Nature Conservancy of Canada is undertaking the first phase of ecological restoration at its Gates Creek Conservation Area within the traditional territory of the N'Quatqua First Nation, with a primary focus on building long-term capacity for the N'Quatqua Guardians. This project will support Guardian-led training and hands-on experience in implementing cultural burns and conducting environmental monitoring associated with restoration initiatives. While restoration activities such as invasive species treatment, streambank stabilization, and native planting will take place, the central objective is to strengthen local expertise and leadership to support ongoing Indigenous-led land stewardship in the watershed.	\$25,000*	Nature Conservancy of Canada

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Wei Wai Kum Loughborough Inlet Projects	CAP-342	Wei Wai Kum First Nation will pilot a freshwater monitoring and feasibility project designed to build Guardian program capacity and inform future habitat restoration planning within the Loughborough Inlet. The project will deliver specialized training in snorkel-based surveying, hydrological monitoring, and water quality sampling while conducting early-stage habitat assessments in Apple Creek, Frazer Creek, and Heydon Lake. Through project-specific technical mentorship and capacity-focused research and analysis, the initiative will prepare the Nation for future conservation implementation and restoration actions.	\$25,000*	Wei Wai Kum First Nation
T'Sou-ke Estuary Monitoring and Planning Initiative	CAP-343	Peninsula Streams and Shorelines, in partnership with the T'Sou-ke Nation Fisheries Department, will build community capacity for estuary habitat monitoring, assessment, and early-stage restoration planning within T'Sou-ke territory. The project will deliver hands-on training in estuary beach seining to assess fish and broader estuarine biodiversity, as well as estuarine forage fish spawning habitat surveys, environmental DNA sampling, and GPS-based habitat mapping. The main objectives are to provide training in practical, culturally grounded monitoring techniques, establish baseline data on estuary species assemblages and habitat conditions, and develop a T'Sou-ke-led Estuary Monitoring and Restoration Planning Framework to guide future stewardship and implementation projects.	\$25,000*	Peninsula Streams Society
Supporting Indigenous-Led Caribou Management	CAP-346	This project will support the formation of an Indigenous-Led Caribou Management Group to restore coordinated, Nation-driven governance and advance recovery efforts. The Group will serve as a formal decision-making table among participating Nations (s̓h̓ay̓ckstx [Sinixt], Syilx, Ktunaxa, Shuswap Band, Neskonlith, Skw̓l̓ax̓ te Secwepemc̓ulecw, Adams Lake, Splants̓in, and Simpcw) to develop shared management priorities, guide recovery strategies, and establish clear recommendations for implementation in partnership with the Province. The primary purpose is to advance recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou within the DU9 South Unit while reclaiming and exercising Indigenous caretaker roles.	\$22,320*	Shuswap Band
siya? on the Land	CAP-347	siya? on the Land is an opportunity for youth soon entering the workforce to gain direct field experience in wildlife, fish, and habitat conservation field work alongside traditional knowledge systems. It intends to build confidence, skills, interest, and inspiration for youth to take their first steps towards careers in conservation and proactively addresses the need for future conservation leaders.	\$24,304*	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Grasslands Restoration for Bighorn Sheep Habitat	CAP-352	Building on multi-year bighorn population surveys conducted by St'at'imc Government Services (SGS), this project will develop the planning and technical capacity needed to assess and implement grasslands habitat enhancement along the west side of the Fraser River, north of Lillooet. Working collaboratively with Xw̓isten, the project will bring together technical specialists, community Knowledge Holders, and burn boss candidates in training to confirm priority treatment areas as well as initiate treatment prerequisites including heritage assessment, fuel management prescription, and cultural/prescribed burn plan. These activities and the foundational planning documents they produce will prepare SGS and Xw̓isten for future on-the-ground habitat enhancement work addressing conifer encroachment into critical bighorn sheep grassland habitat.	\$25,000*	St'at'imc Government Services

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We Wai Kai Stream Stewardship Projects	CAP-362	We Wai Kai First Nation, in partnership with Astraea Consulting Ltd. and Greenways Land Trust, will pilot a watershed assessment and Guardian capacity development project to advance freshwater habitat restoration planning within the Campbell River and Quadra Island region. It will undertake feasibility-level habitat assessments in the Pidcock Creek, Haig-Brown/Kingfisher Creek, and Caddisfly Creek watersheds while delivering specialized training in Fish Habitat Assessment Procedures, Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping, and scientific monitoring techniques. Through partnerships with technical specialists and community stewardship organizations, the project will build long-term Guardian capacity and generate planning-level information required to guide future habitat restoration and conservation implementation.	\$25,000*	We Wai Kum First Nation
Black and Grizzly Bear Population Status in DRFN Traditional Territory	CAP-367	This project explores the feasibility of a DNA mark-recapture program in Doig River First Nation (DRFN) territory to monitor the status of black and grizzly bear populations. The project is First Nation-led and will weave scientific and traditional knowledge to better understand bear population dynamics in DRFN traditional territory with the aim of better understanding the logistics required for a full-scale DNA mark-recapture and stable isotope program. This program will support restoration planning and the development of management responses to recover ungulate populations, to restore healthy predator-prey dynamics, and to restore ecosystem function and balance.	\$25,000*	Doig River First Nation



Gates Creek Conservation Area  
Photo by Fernando Lessa