

Caribou Habitat Restoration Fund (CHRF)

Frequently Asked Questions

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Who can apply?

Any individual or organization capable of restoring habitat for caribou in British Columbia. To maximize the benefits for caribou using the funds available, the Province of B.C. has identified priority herds and developed guidelines for selecting restoration areas and activities that will benefit these herds.

What is the maximum funding available?

There is no upper limit to the amount of money an application can request; however, keep in mind that HCTF's goal is to allocate this money to habitat restoration projects that, in aggregate, will provide the maximum benefit to caribou. Priority will be given to projects that secure significant partner contributions (cash and in-kind), and applicants are encouraged to target a funding match of 0.5 to 1.

What activities are eligible?

Applicants should review the [Eligible and Ineligible Activities List](#) to understand what activities qualify for CHRF funding. Activities must focus on functionally restoring linear features (e.g., roads, seismic lines) and ecological restoration to reduce predator and human use of caribou habitat and to restore habitat integrity in the long term. Proposed activities must not be part of an existing statutory or legal obligation and must minimize environmental impact. Collaboration with regional B.C. government caribou biologists is required.

Who do I contact to discuss my proposal?

You can contact the Caribou and Special Projects Coordinator, [Lisa Wielinga](#), to discuss ideas and receive guidance on your applications. You must also contact the B.C. Provincial Ministry biologist for the region where your project will take place to review project specifics. (More info in the CHRF [Apply tab](#)). While HCTF staff cannot provide full preliminary reviews due to the high volume of proposals, staff can assist with specific questions or clarifications.

Is there a list of past funded projects?

Each year, CHRF publishes a brochure describing funded projects and program achievements. There is also a GIS map with project locations and descriptions, both available on the CHRF [Overview tab](#).

Which caribou herd ranges will be prioritized?

The Province of B.C. has identified high and medium-priority herd ranges for habitat restoration projects to ensure a coordinated and strategic approach. An updated list of priority herds is available on the CHRF [Resources tab](#).

How many years of funding can I apply for?

Projects can apply for funding for up to 3 years in duration (1, 2, or 3 years). For multi-year projects, funds are released in installments, with an annual Progress Update required to demonstrate that the project is on track.

How do seed projects differ from a full project?

Seed projects can request up to \$10,000 to help develop a full, technically sound proposal for a new caribou habitat restoration project. The goal is to assist groups to prepare full proposals that meet technical requirements. Details and the seed application worksheet are available on the CHRF [Seed tab](#).

Can I apply for multiple projects?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of projects you can apply for, provided you demonstrate the capacity to undertake and successfully complete each project.

If my previous application was not approved, can I apply again?

Yes. You can reapply as a new application. You must disclose previous feedback and demonstrate how the previous concerns have been addressed.

What guidance is available for monitoring and project planning?

- Abbreviated [CHRF Monitoring Guidelines](#)
- Detailed [Project Monitoring Guidance](#)
- Abbreviated [CHRF Treatment Prescription Guidelines](#)
- Province's [Operational Framework for Woodland Caribou Habitat Restoration](#)

Additional guidance is available on the CHRF [Resources tab](#).

Can my project include wildlife cameras?

If you choose to include the use of cameras in your proposal, it is important to clearly establish their relevance to your project's objectives. Consider how these devices can contribute to assessing your project's success metrics, keeping in mind that the specific indicators will vary based on your specific goals. By connecting the camera usage to what you hope to achieve, you'll make it clear why they will support the success of your project. For more detailed guidelines, please refer to the [Wildlife Camera Metadata Protocol](#).

How are proposals assessed and scored?

Each proposal goes through a multi-level, objective, technical review:

- Primary Reviewer Assessment
- Technical Committee Review
- Final Funding Decision by Board of Directors

Evaluation criteria are listed on the CHRF [Apply tab](#).

How do I submit my proposal?

All applications are submitted online via Survey Apply. Applications by email are not accepted. Worksheets for New Applications, Progress Updates, and Seed Applications are provided to assist preparation but are not mandatory if you prefer to compose your answers directly in the online form.

When will I hear if my project was approved?

Funding approvals are finalized by the Board in March each year. Approved proponents are notified by email and can start work April 1 of the funding year. Projects approved with conditions must meet those before work begins.

What if I need a contract extension?

Multi-year funding of up to 3 years reduces the need for extensions. Contract extensions can be requested until February 15 of the contract year, using a form found on the CHRF [Manage tab](#).

What if my project changes?

If you need to change your project's objectives, activities, or budget, you must submit a Project Change Request Form (and an updated budget spreadsheet, if applicable) by February 15 of your contract year. Forms and templates are available on the CHRF [Manage tab](#).