HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Approved Project Plans

Land Stewardship Grants

2026-2029 Funding Cycle

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grants

2026-29

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, 39 grants have been awarded. This document contains project plans approved for funding for the 2026-2029.

Project #	Project Name	Organization	Board Approved
0-689	Invasive Plant Management Interior BC	Nature Conservancy Canada	$60,000
1-955	Oak Haven and Havenwood	Habitat Acquisition Trust	$59,957
1-957	ȾIKEL Wetland Habitat Restoration	WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society	$59,570
1-958	Talking Trees - Mid-Island Protected Areas Network	Galiano Conservancy Association	$59,983
1-960	Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	Pender Islands Conservation Association	$59,917
1-961	KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	Raincoast Conservation Foundation	$59,940
1-963	The Ayrie; within a protected areas network	Denman Conservancy Association	$35,705
1-964	Ginn's Conservation Area	WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society	$24,633

1-965	Tsartlip Stewardship Department for MÁWUEĆ	Tsartlip First Nation	$34,144
1-966	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island	Salt Spring Island Conservancy	$59,560
1-967	Matson Conservation Area	Habitat Acquisition Trust	$57,035
2-902	Three Creeks	Fraser Valley Conservancy	$59,996
2-903	Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program	DRS Earthwise Society	$44,760
4-784	Edwards Pond Fencing	Southern Interior Land Trust (SILT)	$15,000
		Total for program:	**$630,217**

Invasive Plant Management Interior BC

0-689

Application: Invasive plant management across NCC conservation lands in interior BC

Sarah Bayliff - sarah.bayliff@natureconservancy.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000029
Last submitted: Mar 27 2026 11:38 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Invasive plant management across NCC conservation lands in interior BC*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Sarah Bayliff
Project Leader Role/Title:	Interior Program Manager
Email Address:	sarah.bayliff@natureconservancy.ca
Work Phone:	250-880-7416
Cell Phone:	250-880-7416
Field Contact (optional):	N/A

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Nature Conservancy of Canada - British Columbia Region - Victoria, BC
Address:	#200-825 Broughton Street
City:	Victoria
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8W 1E5
Website:	https://natureconservancy.ca/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=19545406708&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI0In6w9uakAMVOSWtBh0KFA93EAAYASAAEgI2GfD_BwE

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 60,000.00

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1962
BC Society No. (if applicable):	N/A
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	11924 6544 RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is the country's unifying force for nature. We seek solutions to the twin crises of rapid biodiversity loss and climate change through large-scale, permanent land conservation.
As a trusted partner, we work with people, communities, businesses, and government to protect and care for our most important natural areas and the plants and animals they sustain. We often work where others cannot, removing roadblocks to conservation and supporting transformational projects for the sake of nature and people.
Since 1962, our evidence-based planning framework has helped us bring Canadians together to conserve and restore more than 15 million hectares, coast-to-coast-to-coast. NCC is a registered charity. Today NCC employs over 450 staff and 1,300 annual volunteers across the country.
We envision a world in which Canadians conserve nature in all its diversity and safeguard the lands and waters that sustain life. The Nature Conservancy of Canada leads and inspires others to join us in creating a legacy for future generations by conserving important natural areas and biological diversity across all regions of Canada.
NCC's first project in British Columbia was the acquisition of Mud Bay in 1974 — a vibrant intertidal property in Vancouver's Boundary Bay. Since then, we have helped to protect over 1 million hectares of the province's most biologically diverse lands and waters. Today the BC Region continues to work with our partners to protect and steward British Columbia's natural heritage.
Audited financial statements for the 2023-2024 fiscal year (June 1 – May 31) are attached. 2024-2025 statements will be available soon.
Through our partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, NCC has worked to manage invasive vegetation on Toad Hollow and Turtle Valley Farm, enhance riparian habitat at Morrissey Meadows, restore the ecologically and culturally significant Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve, protect sensitive vegetation communities at the Dutch Creek Hoodoos Conservation Area, complete several conservation actions throughout the Elk Valley Heritage Conservation Area and construct riparian fencing at the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

Invasive species are one of the top contributing factors to biodiversity loss. Each year, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) invests time and money into the management of invasive plant species across NCC lands. This project's goal is to manage for invasive plants on several NCC conservation areas within BC's interior, including Lac du Bois Conservation Area, Lincoln Creek Ranch, and Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area by performing chemical and mechanical treatments on invasive plant infestations. This project aims to build on previous invasive plant management NCC has performed, reducing the threat of invasive plant species across NCC lands throughout the interior of BC, helping to promote the rich biodiversity that these grassland landscapes are known for.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

0-Province Wide or Multi-Region

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

1629.75

*How many properties are included in this application:

3

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Lac du Bois Conservation Area
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-752-197, 001-752-235, 001-752-243, 001-752-260, 001-752-278, 001-752-332, 001-752-421, 001-752-448, 001-752-464, 001-752-472, 001-752-481, 001-752-499
Latitude:	50°47'58.8"N
Longitude:	120°27'07.6"W
Individual Property size (Ha):	948.39

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

17 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Conservation land zoning - describe in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

This property is owned in fee simple by NCC. Lac du Bois Conservation Area is included in the BC NGO Conservation Areas database.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Lac du Bois Conservation Area is open to the public for compatible recreation, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, kayaking, and cross-country skiing. This property is adjacent to the Lac du Bois Protected Area, which also welcomes similar types of recreation. Areas of the conservation property are licenced to a local rancher for grazing and haying purposes. This licence is non-exclusive and reserves NCC's rights to access and manage the lands.

Property 2

Property Name:	Lincoln Creek Ranch
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	008-307-156, 008-324-662, 008-324-689, 017-395-291
Latitude:	51°40'35.9"N
Longitude:	124°24'06.6"W
Individual Property size (Ha):	148.02

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

19 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Conservation land zoning - describe in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

This property is owned in fee simple by NCC. Lincoln Creek Ranch is included in the BC NGO Conservation Areas database.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Lincoln Creek Ranch is open to the public for compatible recreation, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and bird watching. There is a pasture on the property that is licenced to a local rancher for grazing each spring. This licence is non-exclusive and reserves NCC's rights to access and manage the lands.

Property 3

Property Name:	Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	014-367-319, 014-367-301, 014-367-297, 014-367-025, 014-366-983, 014-366-959, 014-366-916, 012-980-277, 005-136-334, 003-739-163
Latitude:	50°26'27.9"N
Longitude:	120°18'30.2"W
Individual Property size (Ha):	533.34

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

11 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift
Conservation land zoning - describe in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

This property is owned in fee simple by NCC. Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area is included in the BC NGO Conservation Areas database. Several parcels are also registered as Ecogifts through the Ecological Gifts Program.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Napier Lake Ranch is open to the public for compatible recreation, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and bird watching. Areas of the conservation property are licenced to local ranchers for grazing and haying purposes. These licences are non-exclusive and reserve NCC's rights to access and manage the lands.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

Lac du Bois Conservation Area, Lincoln Creek Ranch Conservation Area and Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area are all largely composed of native grassland habitat. Grasslands in British Columbia make-up less than 1% of the province's land cover yet are home to over 30% of its species at risk (Iverson 2004). These three conservation areas provide important habitat values for many species, including forage for ungulates and feeding and nesting grounds for grassland birds and waterfowl.

• Lac du Bois Conservation Area is located north of Kamloops, adjacent to the Lac du Bois Protected Area. This 948-hectare conservation area is comprised of beautiful fescue grasslands and Douglas-fir forests at higher elevations, with sagebrush steppe spanning lower elevations. The variety of habitat supports many species, including ungulates and larger predators, like the American Black Bear (Ursus americanus) and Grey Wolf (Canis lupus). Throughout the conservation area, there are approximately 21.3 hectares of wetlands, which support a plethora of waterfowl, including Cinnamon Teal (Spatula cyanoptera), Ruddy Duck (Oxyura jamaicensis) and Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola). Several significant species observed at this conservation area include Western Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta) and Columbian Sharp-Tailed Grouse (Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus).

• The 533-hectare Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area lies south of Kamloops. This landscape is mainly composed of upper and middle elevation grasslands along with areas of deciduous woodland, rocky outcrops and wetlands. Several at-risk plant communities have been identified throughout the conservation area, including the blue-listed common snowberry – prairie rose and bluebunch wheatgrass – junegrass ecological communities, and the red listed Baltic rush – field sedge and giant wildrye herbaceous vegetation ecological communities (BC CDC 2024). Napier Lake Ranch also hosts multiple at risk-species, including Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus), Western Toad (Anaxyrus boreas) and Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus).

• Nestled in the Tatlayoko Valley, approximately 250 kilometres west of Williams Lake, lies Lincoln Creek Ranch. This conservation area is characterized by a mix of open grassland benches, Douglas-fir and pine forest, and the Lincoln Creek riparian zone. The grasslands at this conservation area are classified as the blue-listed bluebunch

wheatgrass - junegrass ecological community (BC CDC 2023). This conservation area is a significant migratory corridor for songbirds and waterfowl. In 2024, over 145 bird species were observed at the Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory, just south of Lincoln Creek Ranch (Snively 2024). This valley is also an important spring feeding area for Grizzly Bear (Ursus arctos), which are common throughout the conservation area. Other species at risk found on this conservation area include Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor).

British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC). 2023. Report: Inventory and assessment of ecological communities at Mare's Creek Ranch, Tatlayoko Lake Ranch, and Lincoln Creek Ranch NCC properties. 26pp.
British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (BC CDC). 2024. BC Conservation Data Centre Bunchgrass Hills Conservation Area and Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area Ecosystem Plots 2023-2024. 6pp.
Iverson K. 2004. Grasslands of the Southern Interior. Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/brochures/grasslands_southern_interior.pdf
Snively S. 2024. Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory 2024 Annual Report. TLBO Report 2024

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity throughout grassland habitat. Invasive plants can outcompete native vegetation, reduce biodiversity, and can be very difficult to control once established. Through the implementation of different management techniques, including mechanical removal and application of herbicide, invasive plant infestations can be successfully managed and controlled, helping to restore the native biodiversity that grasslands are so well known for. NCC has made significant investments towards addressing the threat of invasive species, spending an average of $150,000 on invasive plant management throughout the interior each year.

The management goal of this project is to reduce the impact of invasive plants species throughout NCC's Lac Bois Conservation Area, Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area and Lincoln Creek Ranch Conservation Area to maintain and enhance the biodiversity found across these landscapes. This management goal will be achieved by performing chemical and mechanical treatments on invasive plant infestations across these conservation areas. Cost of performing invasive plant treatments varies across these three properties due to location, access, topography, etc., as is seen in the difference of area treated in the attached Budget and Activities spreadsheet. Lincoln Creek Ranch is located in the Tatlayoko Valley and requires increased contractor costs for travel to/from site, so the cost of treatment is increased. Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area also has higher contractor travel costs as water for mixing herbicide is not available on the conservation area and must be hauled on site. Both of these conservation areas also have terrain where ATV access is limited and backpack spraying is required, which also increases contract costs.

Management of invasive plants in these grassland landscapes is a difficult and ongoing challenge. NCC is committed to long term invasive plant management across NCC lands. The desired condition is for these conservations areas to represent grassland landscapes that are rich with native plant biodiversity and where invasive plants infestations are actively managed and reduced and new infestations are eradicated.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Lac du Bois Conservation Area Property Management Plan – completed in 2016
Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area Property Management Plan – completed in 2015
Lincoln Creek Ranch Property Management Plan – completed in 2016
*Note: property level actions and management priorities are also annually tracked and updated in NCC databases to ensure conservation targets identified throughout property management plans are being maintained and any threats are being addressed and actively managed.

NCC's invasive plant management is also informed by annual reports submitted by contractors and the annual Operational Plan for Terrestrial Invasive Plants in the Thompson-Nicola Region, provided by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (last updated in 2025), and the list of priority invasive plant species supplied by the Cariboo Regional District (last updated in 2020).

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

No Current Partnership

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

This project will receive funding from NCC contributions to support costs of labour and materials. The Cariboo Regional District and Thompson Nicole Regional District will also support this project through their respective Landowner Assistance programs for invasive plant management.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

Across these lands, NCC works collaboratively with licence holders and neighbors on fence repairs/maintenance and access management. At Lac du Bois Conservation Area, NCC participates in annual grassland cleanup events hosted by the Grassland Conservation Council of BC (GCC), Kamloops Naturalist Club, and Friends of Lac du Bois. NCC has also hosted a weed pull event on the Lac du Bois Conservation Area in collaboration with GCC.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

*Recognizing HCTF's Contribution

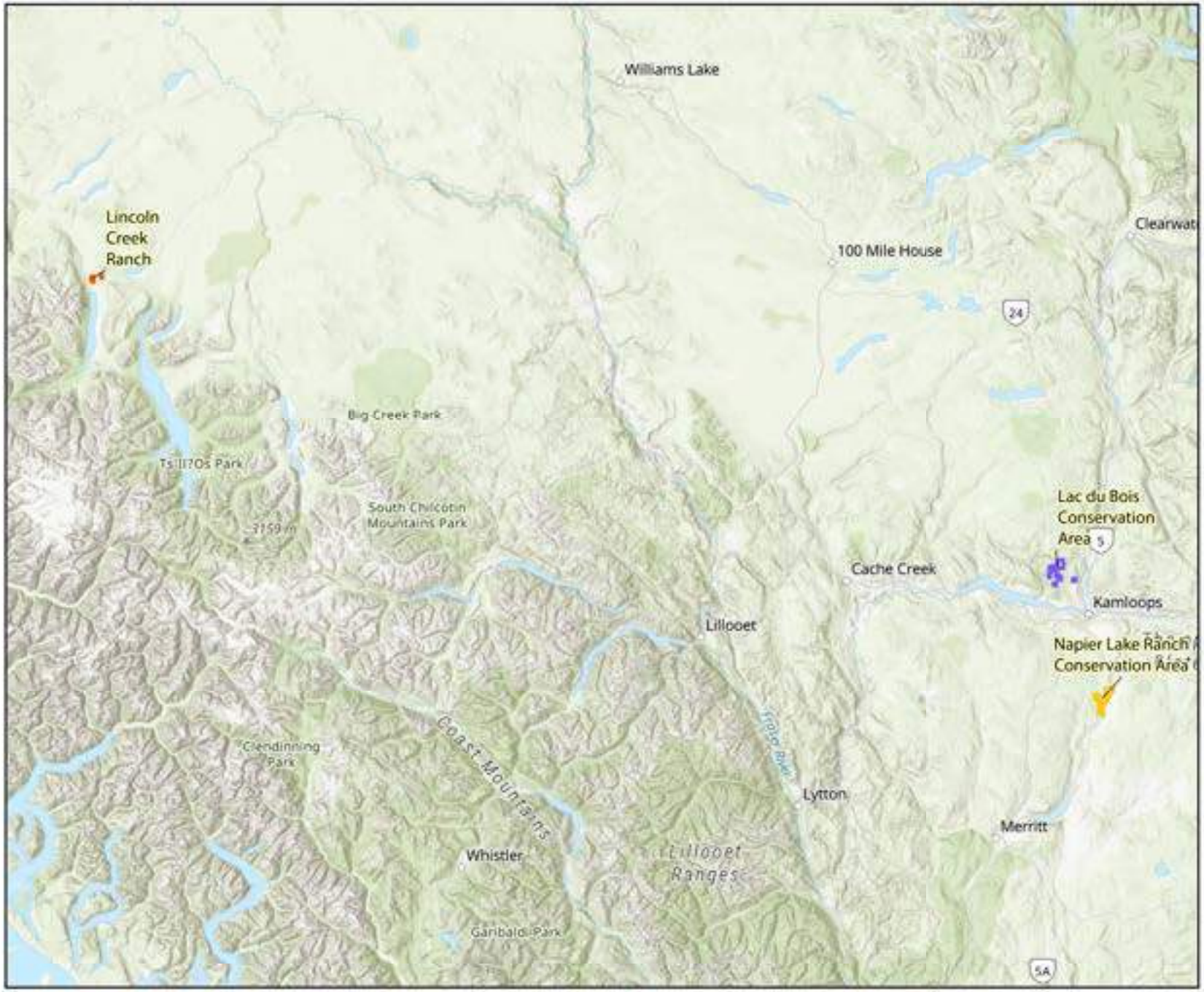
Please see *HCTFs Communications page* for guidelines and other details on how you should clearly acknowledge HCTF's support.

Responses Selected:

I have read the above guidelines and understand that I will be required to acknowledge HCTF's support of this project, if approved for funding.

NCC 2026 HCTF LSG Application

Property Overview Map



Lac du Bois Conservation Area

Lincoln Creek Ranch

Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area

Map prepared by The Nature Conservancy of Canada, October 2025. NAD 1983 BC Environment Albers.
Disclaimer: This map is illustrative only and may contain omissions or errors.

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Test Property

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 60,000.00
Admin Fee %	
Admin Fee $	$ -
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 60,000.00**
Admin Note	

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	$ 105,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$ 105,000.00

Objectives aka Conservation Actio

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Lac du Bois Conservation Area	1a. Ecosystem Based	Treatment (chemical/mechanical) of invasive species throughout the Lac du Bois Conservation Area.	Invasive species removed (ha)	Invasive species removed across 10 ha	Annually
Lincoln Creek Ranch	1a. Ecosystem Based	Treatment (chemical/mechanical) of invasive species throughout Lincoln Creek Ranch.	Invasive species removed (ha)	Invasive species removed across 5 ha	Annually
Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area	1a. Ecosystem Based	Treatment (chemical/mechanical) of invasive species throughout the Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area.	Invasive species removed (ha)	Invasive species removed across 7 ha	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Oak Haven and Havenwood

1–955

Application: Oak Haven and Havenwood

Habitat Acquisition Trust - hatmail@hat.bc.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000012
Last submitted: Apr 7 2026 08:45 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Oak Haven and Havenwood*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Vanessa Brownlee
Project Leader Role/Title:	Habitat Restoration Coordinator
Email Address:	vanessa@hat.bc.ca
Work Phone:	250-995-2428
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Habitat Acquisition Trust
Address:	PO Box 8552
City:	Victoria
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8W 3S2
Website:	www.hat.bc.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 60000

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1996
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-361193
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	889626545RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a regional land trust and registered Canadian charity dedicated to conserving nature on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Since its founding in 1996, HAT has established a respected history of community-driven conservation, helping to protect over 1600 hectares of ecologically significant land. Today, our mission is carried out through Indigenous-led land stewardship, habitat restoration, species-at-risk monitoring, and community engagement. We ensure long-term protection of ecosystems from development and degradation by utilizing legal conservation mechanisms, such as conservation covenants. HAT's work is rooted in collaboration and inclusion, recognizing that lasting conservation depends on strong relationships with people, place, and the ecosystems that sustain us.

HAT's beginnings stem from the promotion of a Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt in the Sooke Hills region, a rich and ecologically significant area northwest of the City of Victoria. As a result of that effort, HAT successfully protected Ayum Creek and Ayum Estuary—a purchase that became HAT's first acquisition. The Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt is now over 95% protected. Today, HAT directly stewards over 1,600 hectares of natural habitats and participates in the protection of 30 conservation areas through conservation covenants and fee-simple land acquisition. From private to public to First Nations lands, HAT actively stewards these landscapes for their long-term ecological well-being in close relationship with the community. In practice, HAT's stewardship work encompasses ecological restoration, environmental monitoring, wildlife monitoring, and community engagement and education.

HAT has a yearly operating budget of just under $1.1 million in order to undertake this critical work, of which 80% stems from grants, 12% from donations, and 8% from other funding sources. Much of this funding is from public governmental sources, both provincial and federal. Currently, HAT has 8 permanent full-time staff members, 5 full-time seasonal staff members, and 5 part-time contractors. Collectively, HAT staff hold decades of experience in conservation land management, and organizationally, HAT is well-respected for our stewardship of a variety of conservation areas throughout the Capital Regional District.

HAT also hosts more than 800 active volunteers, demonstrating its strong support system and establishment within the community. At its core, HAT is a volunteer-focused organization and hosts several programs that outreach to people of all ages and abilities. Regular volunteer events occur year-round, bringing the community out to do restoration work on a number of conservation areas in the region, largely in support of Indigenous-led restoration projects. HAT is also the host of several volunteer and outreach programs, including our Good Neighbours to Nature Program, BC Community Bat Program (Southern Vancouver Island), Friends of Oak Haven Park, Friends of Havenwood Park, and the Matson Mattocks.

Over the years, HAT has been building relationships with members of the W̱SÁNEĆ, SC'IA̓NEW, and lək̓ʷəŋən communities who are undertaking ecological restoration as not only an environmental endeavour, but also as a critical culturally important means of expressing resurgent Indigenous jurisdiction. This has led to HAT keeping trust-based relationships with local nations, Indigenous-led organizations, and Indigenous communities, with the ultimate goal of achieving conservation values through reconciliation.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

Oak Haven and Havenwood Park are ecologically significant, permanently conserved areas surrounded by developments on southern Vancouver Island. Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is leading ongoing stewardship to enhance and protect the rare and endangered plant communities and associated wildlife within Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems. These conservation areas provide vital habitat for native plants and wildlife while offering opportunities for residents to connect with nature. HAT's stewardship efforts focus on controlling invasive species, restoring native vegetation, and supporting the long-term health and resilience of these ecosystems. In collaboration with local municipalities and the Lək̓ʷəŋən, W̱SÁNEĆ, T'Souke, and SC'IA̓NEW Nations, this work integrates cultural importance and ecological restoration with community engagement. Through volunteer participation, education, and outreach, Oak Haven and Havenwood are models of how local ecosystems can be stewarded within urban landscapes.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

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*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

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*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

26.7

*How many properties are included in this application:

2

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Oak Haven Park
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	023-913-312
Latitude:	48.564
Longitude:	-123.447
Individual Property size (Ha):	10.2

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

No

*Provide the name of the landowner and describe your relationship with the property e.g. lease, manager, other.

District of Central Saanich is the landowner of Oak Haven, and HAT is a Section 219 co-covenant holder along with the Land Conservancy of BC. HAT is the primary land manager of the park. Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a registered covenant holder on title for Oak Haven Park, jointly with The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), under a Section 219 Conservation Covenant. The covenant ensures the park's long-term protection, maintaining its natural state, biodiversity, and public access for low-impact recreation in accordance with the Oak Haven Park Management Plan.

As covenant holder, HAT conducts annual monitoring and reporting to ensure compliance with the covenant terms and works collaboratively with the District of Central Saanich to support stewardship, habitat protection, and ecological restoration. HAT also engages community members and partners to help sustain the park's Garry oak and Douglas-fir ecosystems and to promote awareness of its ecological significance within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone.

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*Letter of Support and Management Agreement

If the property is owned by another party the applicant must include a letter from the property owner confirming they support the application and permission to:

1. access the property, and
2. conduct the activities presented in the application and
3. confirmation there is a management agreement in place including the length of time (years) the applicant has been managing the property, OR a copy of the management agreement signed by both parties.

LOS - Oak Haven_District of Central Saanich.pdf

Filename: LOS - Oak Haven_District of Central Saanich.pdf.pdf **Size:** 131.2 kB

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

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*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Conservation land zoning - describe in text box
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

Municipal Park (P2 Parks & Open Space Zoning), Oak Haven Park (Lot 24, Plan VIP 65997, Section 14, Range 1 West, South Saanich District) is a 10.2-hectare (25.2-acre) municipally owned natural park within the District of Central Saanich. The park is protected under both conservation land zoning and a Section 219 covenant registered on title in 2004 between The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich (landowner), Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT), and The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (TLC). The Sec. 219 covenant's purpose is to protect, preserve, conserve, maintain, enhance, and restore the park and its natural features in perpetuity. It ensures that the land remains in a natural state and is available for public recreation consistent with conservation goals, such as walking and nature observation, under an approved management plan.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Oak Haven Park (SȽIDȻEŁ ŦIŦEŁ SȽÁNET) is a publicly accessible park, primarily accessed from a small parking lot off Benvenuto Road. Within the park, Oak Haven has a delineated walking path for the public. The walking path is easily distinguished, with parts indicated with gravel and/or cedar split-rail fences. There are no bicycle, horse, or motorized vehicle access allowed; recreation activities in Oak Haven are limited to walking, running, and on-leash dogs. The area surrounding the park is low-density residential zoning.

Property 2

Property Name:	Havenwood Park
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	024-764-965
Latitude:	48.413
Longitude:	-123.506
Individual Property size (Ha):	16.5

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

No

*Provide the name of the landowner and describe your relationship with the property e.g. lease, manager, other.

The City of Colwood is the landowner. HAT is co-covenant holder with the Land Conservancy of BC.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a registered covenant holder on title for Havenwood Park, jointly with The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), under a Section 219 Conservation Covenant. The covenant was established to ensure the long-term protection of the park's natural features, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

HAT's role as covenant holder includes annual monitoring, reporting on ecological condition and compliance, and working collaboratively with the City of Colwood to uphold the conservation objectives and management plan for the park. HAT also provides stewardship support, ecological expertise, and community education to help sustain the protected area's conservation values.

*Letter of Support and Management Agreement

If the property is owned by another party the applicant must include a letter from the property owner confirming they support the application and permission to:

1. access the property, and
2. conduct the activities presented in the application and
3. confirmation there is a management agreement in place including the length of time (years) the applicant has been managing the property, OR a copy of the management agreement signed by both parties.

LOS - Havenwood_City of Colwood.pdf

Filename: LOS - Havenwood_City of Colwood.pdf.pdf **Size:** 332.9 kB

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

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*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Conservation land zoning - describe in text box
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

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*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Havenwood Park is protected through both conservation land zoning and a Section 219 conservation covenant. The park is municipally owned by the City of Colwood and zoned P5 – Natural Park under the City's Land Use Bylaw No. 151 (1989, consolidated). This zoning designation allows only two uses, 1) natural park and 2) accessory buildings or structures, ensuring that management focuses on ecological protection and passive recreation. The park is also recognized in the City's Official Community Plan as a Natural Park, highlighting its long-term importance for biodiversity, ecosystem health, and community enjoyment. Public access is encouraged through low-impact activities such as walking, birdwatching, and nature study, maintaining the area's ecological integrity while connecting people with nature.

A Section 219 Conservation Covenant is registered on title in favour of the Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC), jointly with the Cities of Colwood and Langford. These legal instruments protect the park's natural state and ecological features. The covenant prohibits subdivision, development, or any activity inconsistent with conservation, while allowing for habitat restoration and passive recreation consistent with the Havenwood Park Management Plan. Together, the conservation zoning and covenant ensure that Havenwood Park remains a cornerstone of community stewardship and ecological well-being, securing its biodiversity in perpetuity.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Havenwood Park is a publicly accessible park owned by the City of Colwood and the City of Langford. The park itself is bisected by the Veterans Memorial Parkway, off which there are two small parking lots to access the park. There are two delineated gravel walking paths throughout the park and a wooden staircase. Recreational public access is limited to walking, running, and on-leash dogs. The surrounding area is high-density residential lots.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

Oak Haven and Havenwood Park encompass ecologically significant remnants of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Garry oak ecosystems—two of the most endangered ecosystems in British Columbia. These parks provide important ecological connectivity across the Capital Regional District landscape, functioning as habitat refuges and wildlife corridors within an increasingly urbanized environment.

Havenwood Park features a mosaic of mature Douglas-fir and western redcedar forest interspersed with Garry oak and arbutus ecosystems on rocky outcrops. These habitats represent provincially red- and blue-listed ecological communities, including Douglas-fir/Arbutus and Garry oak/Arbutus associations. The park's varied topography supports a diversity of microhabitats, such as forested slopes, riparian habitat, and open bluffs that sustain a wide range of wildlife. Common species include pileated woodpeckers, barred owls, and Pacific tree frogs, along with 68 bird species observed, and numerous pollinators that rely on the park's structural and vegetation diversity.

Oak Haven Park protects a remnant Garry Oak meadow and woodland complex, an ecosystem of exceptional ecological and cultural importance for the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations. The open meadows and rocky bluffs host a diverse assemblage of native grasses and wildflowers, including a rare population of slimleaf onion, camas, shooting stars, and woolly sunflower, which provide essential habitat for native pollinators such as the endangered western bumblebee observed at this park (see attached Butterfly Distribution Survey). These ecosystems support high biodiversity with 102 bird species observed, and several species at risk, including barn swallows, common nighthawk and olive-sided flycatcher. Oak Haven Park also functions as a key habitat within the broader regional network of conservation areas, supporting connectivity for wildlife that depend on these increasingly isolated habitats in an urbanized environment.

Both sites face ongoing ecological pressures, including invasive plant encroachment (particularly from Scotch broom and shiny geranium), habitat fragmentation and impacts from nearby developments, and the effects of climate change, such as drought and altered precipitation patterns. HAT's stewardship efforts focus on controlling invasive species, restoring native plant communities, and improving ecosystem resilience through targeted habitat

enhancement.

Oak Haven and Havenwood Park both provide critical wildlife habitat and ecosystem services in their regions, which are fragmented and semi-urban landscapes. They also offer opportunities for community connection to nature and culturally grounded stewardship, advancing regional conservation goals and supporting Indigenous-led restoration principles within W̱SÁNEĆ traditional territories. These ongoing efforts strengthen partnerships between HAT, local governments, and community volunteers, reinforcing a collective responsibility for the long-term protection of these ecologically and culturally important landscapes.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

HAT's vision for Havenwood Park (HWP) and Oak Haven Park (OHP) is to see these ecologically significant sites flourish as resilient ecosystems that support a diversity of wildlife and also serve as places of learning and connection to nature. Located within the traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations (OHP), and SC'IA̓NEW, T'Souke, and lək̓ʷəŋən communities (HWP), these parks offer opportunities to deepen relationships with the land while honouring Indigenous knowledge and stewardship practices that have sustained these ecosystems for millennia. HAT aims to foster greater awareness of the ecological importance of Garry oak and Coastal Douglas-fir habitats, the impacts of invasive species, and the role of local restoration in building climate resilience. Through ongoing stewardship, volunteer engagement, and ecological assessments, HAT envisions these protected areas as living examples of how healthy, functioning ecosystems can thrive with the support of human communities.

Primary Management Goals:

Build upon previous enhancement and restoration of the native Garry Oak and associated ecosystems and the native wildlife that occurs in the for Oak Haven and Havenwood Park through implementation of the updated 2026 Restoration documents for both sites.

Strengthen management components of Oak Haven and Havenwood Park collaboratively through consultation and discussion with multiple community partners.

Engage directly with the WSÁNEĆ, SC'IA̓NEW, T'Souke, Songhees, and Esquimalt Nations and communities to support culturally informed stewardship and knowledge sharing where capacity allows.

Desired Long-Term Outcome: Havenwood Park and Oak Haven Park are envisioned as landscapes retaining ecological integrity, structural diversity, and natural regeneration to support wildlife, threats such as invasive species are minimal and controlled, and community engagement ensures the continued stewardship of ecological and cultural values for future generations.

Objectives for Implementation:

1.1 Oak Haven Park: Continue to follow best practices and apply appropriate treatment strategies for targeted invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival, with a focus on shiny geranium.

1.2 Oak Haven Park: Continue to install additional native plants and seeds where needed, strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species.

1.3 Oak Haven Park: Conduct monitoring of invasive species presence and native plant populations to inform management strategies with support from contracted GOE biologists and produce one report of results in Year 3.

1.4 Havenwood Park: Continue to follow best practices and apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival, including Scotch broom, daphne laurel, Himalayan blackberry, English holly, thistle, and oxeye daisy in GOE and CDF ecosystems at risk.

1.5 Havenwood Park: Continue to install additional native plants and seeds where needed, strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species.

1.6: Havenwood Park: Conduct monitoring of invasive species presence and native plant populations to inform management strategies with support from contracted GOE biologists and produce one report of results in Year 3.

2.1 Oak Haven Park: Update the Restoration documents with recommendations and learnings at the end of this grant's tenure. Consult with contracted registered professional biologists for site-specific recommendations and seek to collaborate with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders where capacity allows, so that their input guides management and restoration decision-making.

2.2 Oak Haven Park: Host 1 major volunteer restoration event per year, bringing the community together to undertake invasive species management, share learnings, and connect on the land.

2.3 Oak Haven Park: Build and maintain a relationship with the Friends of Oak Haven volunteer group by meeting with them to discuss invasive species management strategies, answer questions, and plan future restoration activities that align with HAT's land management strategy.

2.4 Havenwood Park: Update the Restoration documents with recommendations and learnings at the end of this grant's tenure. Consult with contracted registered professional biologists for site-specific recommendations and seek to collaborate with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders where capacity allows, so that

their input guides management and restoration decision-making.

2.5 Havenwood Park: Host 1 volunteer event per year, bringing the community together to undertake invasive species management, share learnings, and connect on the land. Bring volunteer experts to identify and train volunteers on best practices, to monitor for focus wildlife, or identify high-risk invasive species.

2.6 Havenwood Park: Build and maintain a relationship with the Friends of Havenwood Park volunteer group by meeting with them to discuss invasive species management strategies, answer questions, and plan future restoration activities that align with HAT's land management strategy.

3.1 Oak Haven Park: Continue to strengthen relationships with members from the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations through 1 annual advisory session and site visit, as well as community events, as opportunities to contribute their expertise on management priorities at Oak Haven Park.

3.2: Continue to strengthen relationships with members from the SC'IÁNEW, T'Souke, Songhees, and Esquimalt Nations through one annual advisory session and site visit, as well as community events, as opportunities to contribute their expertise on management priorities at Havenwood Park.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Oak Haven Park Management Plan (1999)

Oak Haven Park Restoration Plan (2022)

SN̰IDǾEŁ ŦIŦEŁ SN̰ÁNET (Oak Haven Park) 2024 Field Season Restoration Summary and Recommendations (2024)

Slimleaf Onion Management Report Oak Haven Park (2024)

Butterfly Presence & Distribution Surveys, Oak Haven Park (2024)

Havenwood Park Management Plan (2005)

Havenwood Park Management Plan Updated (2023)

2025 Friends of Havenwood Park Record of Activity (2025)

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Partial Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Friends of Havenwood Park. A neighbourhood volunteer group which provides weekly volunteer labour and stewardship activities in Havenwood Park.

Friends of Oak Haven Park. A neighbourhood volunteer group which provides monthly volunteer labour and stewardship activities in Oak Haven Park.

District of Central Saanich. The District of Central Saanich Parks team provides in-kind park maintenance support. 40 hours per year plus fencing, trail, and signage maintenance.

City of Colwood. The Colwood Parks team provides in-kind park maintenance support.

Land Conservancy of BC. Provides administrative or enforcement support as a conservation co-covenant holder.

W̱SÁNEĆ Nations. Members of Tsartlip, Tseycum, Tsawout, and Pauquachin First Nations, on whose territories OHP are within, will be invited as honoured guests to attend W̱SÁNEĆ-led cultural and educational community events.

SC'IÁNEW and lək̓ʷəŋən communities (SC'IÁNEW, Songhees, and Esquimalt Nations) on whose territories HWP are within will be invited as honoured guests to attend cultural and educational community events with Indigenous knowledge keepers present.

Royal Bay Secondary School Indigenous Education Program and Environmental Club. Students of these groups are invited to participate in cultural events and activities co-hosted by HAT, Friends of Havenwood Park, and the school.

Matt Fairbarns. Matt provides registered professional biologist services to HAT in regard to Oak Haven Park, in particular vegetation surveys.

Julia Daly. Julia provides professional biologist services to HAT in regard to Oak Haven Park, in particular fauna surveys.

Kristen Miskelly at Satinflower Nurseries. Kristen provides professional biologist expertise to HAT in regard to updating management and restoration plans.

Province of BC. Through the Community Gaming Grant, the Province provides some support for HAT's land

stewardship activities.

Government of Canada. Some of the seasonal field staff are partially funded through the Canada Summer Jobs program.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

Both Oak Haven and Havenwood Parks are actively stewarded by neighbourhood volunteer groups: the Friends of Oak Haven Park and Friends of Havenwood Park. These dedicated stewardship groups meet on a weekly (Havenwood) and monthly (Oak Haven Park) basis to restore the ecosystems at these sites—removing invasive species, planting native species, and sowing native seeds. Their consistent, hands-on presence ensures that restoration progress is sustained and that ecological health continues to improve over time.

Each year, volunteers from both groups collectively contribute hundreds of hours to on-the-ground stewardship, demonstrating a long-term commitment to the protection of local ecosystems. Their efforts not only enhance the ecological resilience of these parks but also strengthen community connection to nature and stewardship within W̱SÁNEĆ, SC'IA̓NEW and lək̓ʷəŋən territories.

HAT hosts 1-2 community restoration and education events at each conservation area annually, highlighting the importance of conserving and maintaining the wildlife and habitats present on site. This includes an Indigenous Plant Walk, Restoration Event, Community Mapping Event, Royal Bay Secondary School Earth Celebrations, and others.

Funding from HCTF would allow HAT to continue supporting these groups through the coordination of volunteer events, the provision of training and ecological guidance, and the supply of restoration materials. Continued investment will help solidify their long-term stewardship capacity and sustain the strong partnerships that have developed between HAT, the volunteers, and local communities.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

Polygon	UTM Easting	UTM Northing	Area (m^2)
1	467184	5379047	2672
2	467175	5379092	2906
3	467166	5379130	1325
4	467146	5379157	2001
5	466966	5379088	4591
6	467098	5379077	1426
7	466990	5379149	2038
8	466906	5379118	2356
9	467057	5379134	927
10	467112	5379113	754
11	467159	5379014	1330
SLO	467091	5379144	525

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
ȾIKEL (Maber Flats)

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 51,800.00
Admin Fee %	15%
Admin Fee $	$ 7,770.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 59,570.00**
Admin Note	Admin fees support organizational overhead and management costs.

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	$ 63,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$ 6,000.00

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
ȾIKEL	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive species including purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, scentless chamomile and knotweed from site. These species occur throughout the property, and annual removal is necessary to prevent spread.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	10	Annually
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Repair existing culvert. Culvert has aged and gasket is leaking, which allows water to drain from the land that we otherwise want to retain to provide for waterfowl and wading bird / shorebird habitat. Culvert needs to be replaced entirely due to age.	Infrastructure built (#)	1	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Design, print and install property signage. Signage will help with access management to curb impacts to the wetland from 4x4s and dog-walkers, by explaining the impacts of vehicle traffic and dog presence on birds, amphibians and their habitat. Signage will also help raise awareness of WLTS' restoration efforts and garner community support for our efforts.	Signs created and installed (#)	2	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Outreach to the general public in region (mainly Central Saanich) to communicate WLTS plans and conservation efforts at ȾIKEL and answer questions and concerns.	Events held (#)	1	Year 2
	3. Awareness	Host W̱SÁNEĆ elders, youth, knowledge-holders and other W̱SÁNEĆ community members on the land to foster connection, gather and share traditional knowledge, and encourage active stewardship	Other (specify in notes column)	10	Annually
	9. Training	Training for WLTS Land Stewards and Knowledge Weavers in wetland restoration principles and skills, including traditional knowledge from W̱SÁNEĆ elders and knowledge-holders.	Individuals trained (#)	4	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

TIKEL Wetland Habitat Restoration

1-957

Application: TIKEL Wetland Habitat Restoration

Jackie Ohayon - jackie.ohayon@wsanec.com
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000014
Status: Approved - CGA Signing
Last submitted: Nov 7 2025 02:54 PM (PST)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Completed - Nov 7 2025

Before beginning your application below, we recommend downloading the Application Worksheet *to prepare your answers and then copy and paste them into the form below.*

Please refer to the Land Stewardship Grant Program Guidelines *for information on eligible applicants, eligible properties, eligible and ineligible activities and expenses, and other project considerations.*

For helpful tips on using the Survey Apply system, please refer to the Survey Apply Application Guide.

All of these documents can be found on the **Land Stewardship** apply page.

Land Stewardship Application Form

Pre-Screening Questions

Is your conservation property(s) within BC?

Yes

What kind of property management do you intend to fund with this grant?

Actively manage

Is this conservation project solely focused on federally managed salmon species?

No

Are you a Regional, Local, Municipal, or Provincial government applicant?

No

Do you own or do you manage the conservation land you are applying for?

Own and manage

Project Title: *ȾIKEL Wetland Habitat Restoration*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Katie Blake
Project Leader Role/Title:	Manager
Email Address:	katie.blake@wsanec.com
Work Phone:	250-217-2718
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society
Address:	800b Stellys Cross Rd
City:	Saanichton
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8M 1J4
Website:	(No response)

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59,570

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	2021-08-23
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S0075301
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	781454103RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) is a not-for-profit organization with charitable status which was established in August 2021. WLTS was established to hold and manage lands in trust for the collective benefit of the W̱SÁNEĆ people. W̱SÁNEĆ have a sacred obligation to care for the land and waters passed down by XÁ:LS (the Creator). To this overarching goal, the purposes of the WLTS are to hold and protect lands in trust for the collective benefit of W̱SÁNEĆ and future generations; to safeguard and restore sites of ecological, cultural, and historical significance within W̱SÁNEĆ Territory, honouring W̱SÁNEĆ rights, title, and the Douglas Treaties; to establish and maintain spaces for the sustainable exercise and enjoyment of W̱SÁNEĆ rights, title, and cultural practices, and; to facilitate land return and receive donations of land, funds, and other resources in support of these purposes. The W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) is a young and growing organization. The most recent fiscal year's budget was approximately $200,000, and the current fiscal year's budget is approximately $400,000 due to a generous capacity grant from a local family foundation, as well as significant grants from the UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation Fund and the Real Estate Foundation. The Victoria Foundaiton is also a significant funder. I n-kind support is also provided by the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) through staff time, administrative support, and coordination. WLTS currently employs 3 core staff on a part-time to full-time basis, as well as 6 part-time contractors. Each year, approximately 10–15 volunteers, students, and partner organization representatives contribute through fieldwork, community events, and collaborative planning. The Society's only property, ȾIKEL (Maber Flats), is a 19-hectare, seasonally-flooded agricultural field that was once a wetland complex. WLTS plans to revive vibrant wetland ecosystems and support a wide variety of species including shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, songbirds, and mammals including cougar and blacktail deer. WLTS is managing the property and planning for major wetland restoration with partners including Rewilding Water & Earth and Habitat Acquisition Trust. The Society also leads collaborative planning processes across W̱SÁNEĆ Territory, including the development of a W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Strategy, a Land Acquisition Framework, and participation in multi-partner conservation initiatives like the ȻENEṈITEL Community of Practice.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The ȾIKEL Wetland Management Project will enhance and maintain one of the last remaining large wetlands on the Saanich Peninsula. Through regular water management, invasive species removal, native plant propagation, and improved access controls, the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society will strengthen habitat for migratory birds, amphibians, and fish species such as coastal cutthroat trout. This three-year project will ensure ȾIKEL continues to provide high-quality wildlife habitat and clean water within the Graham and Hagan Creek watershed while laying the groundwork for future restoration.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

19

*How many properties are included in this application:

1

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	ƛIKEL (Maber Flats)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-934-872;001-934-929;001-934-945;001-934-961;001-934-988;000-360-929;000-360-970;000-361-003;000-361-020;000-361-089
Latitude:	48°34'20.99"N
Longitude:	123°25'39.79"W
Individual Property size (Ha):	19

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

2.5 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

ȾIKEL is bordered on its western edge by Willow Way, a popular multi-use path used regularly by walkers, runners, cyclists, and dog walkers. The path provides a vantage point for passive wildlife observation and has serves as a gathering place for local birders, including a volunteer group that has conducted weekly bird surveys at ȾIKEL for more than 15 years.

While the adjacent Willow Way path remains open to the public, access to the ȾIKEL wetland itself is limited to authorized personnel, partners, and volunteers involved in stewardship activities. This restricted access helps protect sensitive habitat for waterfowl, amphibians, and other wildlife. The W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society maintains signage to minimize disturbance, while continuing to host occasional volunteer and educational events that promote awareness of wetland conservation.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

ȾIKEL (Maber Flats) is a 19-hectare wetland in the heart of the Saanich Peninsula, within the Graham–Hagan Creek watershed. It represents one of the last large, low-elevation wetland complexes remaining in the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, one of the most threatened ecosystems in British Columbia. The wetland provides critical breeding, feeding, and resting habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl, including northern pintail, green-winged teal, hooded merganser, great blue heron, and numerous shorebirds. Over 175 bird species have been recorded at ȾIKEL, making it an important stopover and overwintering site along the Pacific Flyway.

The site also supports amphibians such as red-legged frog and Pacific chorus frog, mammals including black-tailed deer, river otter, and cougar, and is hydrologically linked to fish-bearing streams that support coastal cutthroat trout. These species depend on the site's riparian corridors, open-water habitat, wet meadows, and seasonally flooded fields, which together provide a mosaic of habitat types essential to maintaining regional biodiversity.

In addition to its wildlife values, ȾIKEL plays a vital ecological function in flood attenuation, groundwater recharge, and water filtration, improving downstream habitat quality within the connected Graham and Hagan Creek systems. By conserving and enhancing this wetland, the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society contributes to regional efforts to maintain biodiversity, restore ecological processes, and safeguard critical habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

The management goal for ʔIKEL is to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity of the wetland ecosystem by improving water quality, hydrological function, and habitat diversity for migratory birds, amphibians, and fish. Over the long term, WLTS aims to ensure ʔIKEL remains a self-sustaining, high-functioning wetland complex that provides secure breeding, feeding, and overwintering habitat for wildlife while contributing to overall watershed health.

This will be achieved by:

Managing hydrology through culvert maintenance and monitoring to support consistent water levels for bird and amphibian habitat;

Controlling invasive species and promoting native wetland vegetation to enhance wildlife habitat;

Reducing human disturbance through signage and awareness raising, resulting in access management; and

Monitoring and coordinating watershed stewardship with Tsartlip First Nation and local partners to protect downstream fish habitat and improve long-term ecological outcomes.

Together, these actions will ensure that ʔIKEL continues to function as a keystone wetland supporting biodiversity within the Coastal Douglas-fir zone and connected watershed systems.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

District of Central Saanich (2009). Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP): Hagan–Graham, Tetayut, McHugh–Noble.
Identifies wetland restoration and water retention at ȾIKEL as key strategies for flood mitigation, water quality improvement, and habitat enhancement.

District of Central Saanich (2023). Official Community Plan.
Highlights ecosystem restoration, stormwater management, and natural asset protection as municipal priorities supporting wetland conservation at ȾIKEL.

W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society & Rewilding Water & Earth (2024). ȾIKEL Wetland Restoration and Management Framework (Draft).
Provides site-specific hydrological, vegetation, and habitat management recommendations, guiding operations and monitoring at the property.

Ecological Gifts Program Transfer Documentation (Environment and Climate Change Canada, 2023).
Establishes the conservation intent, restrictions, and stewardship obligations for the WLTS-owned ȾIKEL property.

Memorandum of Understanding between the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society and the District of Central Saanich (Draft, 2024).
Defines cooperative restoration and long-term management of the ȾIKEL wetland complex across the two adjoining properties.

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (2019). Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment for British Columbia.
Provides climate adaptation context supporting wetland restoration and management as a natural infrastructure approach.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

First Nations Applicant

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

District of Central Saanich (DCS): Ongoing coordination and in-kind technical support related to stormwater management and culvert maintenance. DCS owns the adjacent 11-ha northern parcel and collaborates with WLTS to align wetland management objectives.

Peninsula Streams and Shorelines (PSS): Provides water quality data, fish monitoring expertise, and in-kind technical support to align ȾIKEL activities with watershed-scale conservation efforts in Graham and Hagan Creeks.

Tsartlip First Nation Stewardship Team: Collaborates on volunteer events and coordinated habitat restoration and monitoring within the shared watershed, particularly around MÁUW̱EĆ and fish-bearing stream restoration; participation supported through honoraria and shared resources.

Rewilding Water & Earth (RWE): Technical contractor providing ecological restoration and monitoring expertise, including invasive species control and vegetation assessments.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT): Supports safety planning, ecological monitoring design, and fieldwork coordination based on its regional restoration and stewardship experience.

Friday Morning Birding Group: Volunteer-run bird monitoring group that has conducted weekly surveys at ȾIKEL for over 15 years; contributes long-term wildlife data and assists with periodic habitat observations.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

A broad community of conservation partners actively supports ȾIKEL and volunteers engaged through the ȻENEN̰ITEL Community of Practice, a regional stewardship network coordinated by the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society. This network comprises local organizations, including the Habitat Acquisition Trust, Galiano Conservancy Association, Raincoast Conservation Foundation, and Transition Salt Spring, among others, which collaborate to align restoration practices, share data, and build capacity for Indigenous-led land stewardship.

At the site level, the Friday Morning Birding Group has been conducting weekly bird surveys for over 15 years, providing long-term data on migratory and resident species. WLTS also hosts seasonal volunteer events focused on invasive species removal, native plant propagation, and water quality monitoring.

WLTS continues to engage with W̱SÁNEĆ community to determine management and restoration priorities and facilitate W̱SÁNEĆ access for knowledge sharing and stewardship practices.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

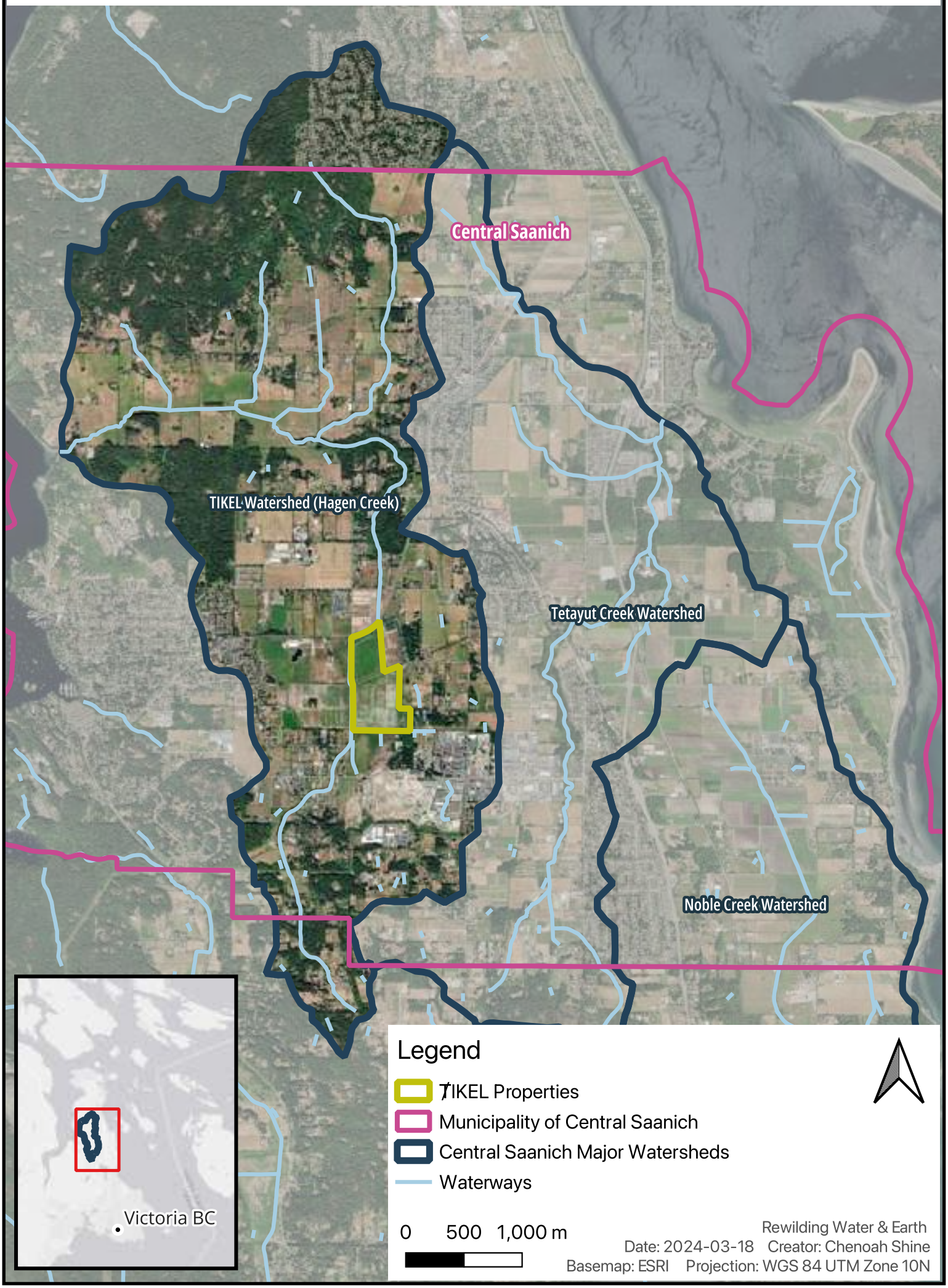
*Recognizing HCTF's Contribution

Please see *HCTFs Communications page* for guidelines and other details on how you should clearly acknowledge HCTF's support.

Responses Selected:

I have read the above guidelines and understand that I will be required to acknowledge HCTF's support of this project, if approved for funding.

TIKEL Watershed Overview - Central Saanich Context



HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
ȾIKEL (Maber Flats)

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 51,800.00
Admin Fee %	15%
Admin Fee $	$ 7,770.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 59,570.00**
Admin Note	Admin fees support organizational overhead and management costs.

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	$ 63,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$ 6,000.00

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
ȾIKEL	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive species including purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, scentless chamomile and knotweed from site. These species occur throughout the property, and annual removal is necessary to prevent spread.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	10	Annually
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Repair existing culvert. Culvert has aged and gasket is leaking, which allows water to drain from the land that we otherwise want to retain to provide for waterfowl and wading bird / shorebird habitat. Culvert needs to be replaced entirely due to age.	Infrastructure built (#)	1	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Design, print and install property signage. Signage will help with access management to curb impacts to the wetland from 4x4s and dog-walkers, by explaining the impacts of vehicle traffic and dog presence on birds, amphibians and their habitat. Signage will also help raise awareness of WLTS' restoration efforts and garner community support for our efforts.	Signs created and installed (#)	2	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Outreach to the general public in region (mainly Central Saanich) to communicate WLTS plans and conservation efforts at ȾIKEL and answer questions and concerns.	Events held (#)	1	Year 2
	3. Awareness	Host W̱SÁNEĆ elders, youth, knowledge-holders and other W̱SÁNEĆ community members on the land to foster connection, gather and share traditional knowledge, and encourage active stewardship	Other (specify in notes column)	10	Annually
	9. Training	Training for WLTS Land Stewards and Knowledge Weavers in wetland restoration principles and skills, including traditional knowledge from W̱SÁNEĆ elders and knowledge-holders.	Individuals trained (#)	4	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Talking Trees – Mid-Island Protected Areas Network

1-958

Application: Talking Trees - Mid-Island Protected Areas Network

Adam Huggins - restoration@galianoconservancy.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000016
Last submitted: Apr 22 2026 12:38 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Talking Trees - Mid-Island Protected Areas Network*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Adam Huggins
Project Leader Role/Title:	Restoration Coordinator
Email Address:	restoration@galianoconservancy.ca
Work Phone:	250-539-2424
Cell Phone:	778-322-0607
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Galiano Conservancy Association
Address:	10825 Porlier Pass Road
City:	Galiano Island
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V0N 1P0
Website:	www.galianoconservancy.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59983

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	June 21, 1989
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-25093
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	886092998 R0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Galiano Conservancy Association (GCA) is a grassroots organization that was founded in 1989 as one of the first community-based land trusts in British Columbia. Our mission is to protect, steward and restore Galiano Island ecosystems by creating a network of natural areas where a healthy environment, learning and a love of nature flourish, and we actively do so through land acquisition, ecological restoration, conservation, youth education, and environmental outreach programs.

The GCA has been conducting award winning restoration projects on Galiano Island for over twenty-seven years and has been running environmental education programs for the past twenty-two. We presently oversee the stewardship of over 350 hectares of land and have provided education to more than 42,000 participants on environmental topics. Our conservation activities include introduced species removal in sensitive ecosystems, restoration in Douglas-fir plantation forests, wetland and watershed restoration, Species-at-Risk inventories, public awareness raising and monitoring of Rockfish Conservation Areas.

The GCA has an annual operating budget of around $800,000, with an eleven-person volunteer board of directors, five full-time staff, and five part-time staff. In a given year, we provide between 10 and 20 paid student and volunteer internship positions. We have an active, engaged membership and donor base, growing earned revenue streams, and have received funding from Federal, Provincial, corporate, foundation, and private sources. In the past three years, over 1300 unique volunteers contributed over 4200 hours to support our education, restoration, and agriculture programs. Our staff now includes experienced practitioners in environmental education, ecological restoration, and sustainable agriculture. Our in-house expertise is supported by our close ties to professors at the School of Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, and the dozens of undergraduate and graduate-level university students that participate in our programs annually, producing reports and academic publications.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The 42 ha Talking Trees Nature Reserve, protecting Ganner Creek and some of the oldest intact Coastal Douglas-fir forests remaining on Galiano Island, is the most recent addition to the Galiano Conservancy's Mid-Island Protected Areas Network (MIPAN). Like Talking Trees, several other properties within MIPAN are being actively reinhabited by beaver and require a renewed approach to stewardship, in partnership with Indigenous people. This project will result in new or updated management plans for these lands, as well as the implementation of beaver-inspired watershed restoration, forest rehabilitation, introduced species removal, and trail construction activities.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

169

*How many properties are included in this application:

4

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Talking Trees Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	009-081-801
Latitude:	48.92200248026288
Longitude:	123.44746365061489
Individual Property size (Ha):	41.97

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

This property was protected in April 2024.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The property is accessible to the public, but it has not yet been officially "opened" because public trails and signage have not yet been installed. Currently, most visitors are neighbours with knowledge of the local area who walk on the property using old forestry roads and one pre-existing public trail (built on private land through the Galiano Trails Society).

Property 2

Property Name:	Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-034-081
Latitude:	48.941164431797915
Longitude:	-123.47708055503253
Individual Property size (Ha):	18.13

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

This property was protected in 2003.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Islands Trust Conservancy; Habitat Acquisition Trust

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Public access is limited to hiking on the Great Beaver Swamp trail, which passes through forested areas on the north side of the property and does not provide access to the shoreline of the wetland. It is used occasionally by through-hikers and GCA educational programs, but otherwise has limited traffic relative to many other protected areas on the island.

Property 3

Property Name:	Quadra Hill Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	009-624-856
Latitude:	48.937126586825464
Longitude:	-123.47494675363332
Individual Property size (Ha):	46.77

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

This property was protected in September 2023.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The property is accessible to the public, but it has not yet been officially "opened" because public trails and signage have not yet been installed. Currently, only neighbours with knowledge of the local area walk on the property, using old forestry roads and informal trails.

Property 4

Property Name:	Pebble Beach Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	009-624-911
Latitude:	48.94627608815217
Longitude:	-123.49318160796186
Individual Property size (Ha):	61.54

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

This property was protected in 1998.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please provide details in the Other text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC); Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Two trails established on old logging access roads provide public access to Cable Bay, Pebble Beach, and Vineyard Way from the end of McCoskrie Road. The trail providing shoreline access is popular with both locals and visitors, and receives significant use year-round, but especially in the summer dry season.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

CAT24-1-832 Quadra Hill Mid-Island Protected Areas Network Expansion & Habitat Enhancement Project

HCTF provided a $250,000 Habitat Acquisition grant towards the acquisition and creation of the Quadra Hill Nature Reserve; $227,500 was budgeted directly for fee simple purchase, and $22,500 was budgeted for initial management costs, which was employed to facilitate ecological forest enhancement activities in 2024-2025.

CAT24-1-831 Enhancing Connectivity and Restoring Degraded Habitat on Galiano Island

This seed grant provided funding that was used to plan and develop the project that was later funded through application FW25-26-0000000062 (grant reference number CAT26-1-846).

CAT26-1-846 Enhancing Connectivity and Restoring Degraded Habitat on Galiano Island

HCTF provided half of the funding required for primary restoration treatments to transform 3 ha of degraded pasture into a wetland ecosystem on the Quadra Hill Nature Reserve, and also contributed to road removal and creek restoration on the adjacent Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve. This work was performed in 2025, and we will provide a full report in March-April of 2026. Follow-up stewardship and monitoring activities for these restored areas are a component of this Land Stewardship proposal.

COMM23--0000000077 (PCAF 1204)

Funding secured through PCAF was used to purchase plants and deer exclusion fencing for the wetland restoration work at the Quadra Hill Nature Reserve (see CAT26-1-846). This work has been successfully completed, and we will provide a full report in March-April of 2026.

COM24-0000000099 Galiano Island Restoration Habitat Enhancement Project

This community grant is providing funds for targeted replanting of restoration sites on GCA lands over the course of several years, including a small restored logging landing located on the Pebble Beach Reserve.

CAP-0000000267 Restoring the Balance through Building Capacity to Steward Forests

This 2025 HCTF Capacity Grant provides funding to 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. Once certified, this faller will be contracted for any danger tree falling and/or dense stand restorative thinning that is conducted in the Mid-Island Protected Areas Network.

FW26-27-0000000246 Learning from the best: Bringing the beaver back to Beaver Creek

Our 2025 Fish & Wildlife proposal, submitted in tandem with this Land Stewardship proposal, would fund road removal and process-based restoration activities at the Pebble Beach Nature Reserve, as well as on the Islands Trust Conservancy's Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve. These restoration activities would be complementary but do not directly overlap with the stewardship activities included in this Land Stewardship proposal.

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The properties represent a range of forest, wetland, and open bluff ecosystems within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic zone, the most imperiled such zone in the province, with only 11% of its area under some form of protection. Ecological communities of conservation concern found on the properties include the following: Abies grandis / Mahonia nervosa (CDFmm 04, Provincial S1, BC Red List); Abies grandis / Tiarella trifoliata (CDFmm 06, Provincial S1, BC Red List); Pseudotsuga menziesii - Arbutus menziesii (CDFmm 02, Provincial S2, BC Red List); Pseudotsuga menziesii / Melica subulata (CDFmm 03, Provincial S1, BC Red List); Salix sitchensis - Salix lasiandra var. Lasiandra / Lysichiton americanus (CDFmm EM02, Provincial S2, BC Blue List); Thuja plicata / Polystichum munitum - Lysichiton americanus (CDFmm 11, Provincial S3, BC Blue List); Quercus garryana / Bromus carinatus (Provincial S1, BC Red List), and Thuja plicata - Pseudotsuga menziesii / Kindbergia oregana (CDFmm 05, Provincial S1, BC Red List).

Of particular note are some of the last remaining intact mature forest ecosystems (100+ years old) found on Galiano Island, which are now protected by the Quadra Hill and Talking Trees Nature Reserves. These ecosystems were never industrially logged, supporting both large diameter old-growth trees and habitat characteristics of mature to old forest ecosystems. On Quadra Hill, these mature forests are found on upland sites; on Talking Trees, they are found on both upland and lowland riparian sites.

All four of the properties include wetland and riparian ecosystems of significant conservation value. Taken together, the Quadra Hill, Great Beaver Swamp, and Pebble Beach Reserves protect a significant proportion of the Beaver Creek watershed, one of only a few watersheds on Galiano that support perennial creek flows. This includes a large, shallow open-water wetland complex regularly used by a diversity of waterfowl and actively maintained by beavers on the Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve, as well as riparian ecosystems that have experienced past disturbance and would benefit from stewardship actions on the Pebble Beach Reserve. The Quadra Hill Nature Reserve includes an intact western redcedar swamp and marsh complex, as well as newly restored wetlands designed to support wildlife and store carbon (see FW25-26-0000000062 / CAT26-1-846).

The Talking Trees Nature Reserve also protects an intact western redcedar swamp and marsh complex, and in addition protects the final reach of the Ganner Creek, including the confluence of three upstream tributary creeks. The upper reaches of this creek include beaver-managed wetlands, while the final reach is a rare example of mature (100+ years old) riparian Coastal Douglas-fir forest and is fish-bearing. The Quadra Hill and Talking Trees Nature Reserves both protect shallow soil Garry oak and associated ecosystems on steep slopes.

Species at Risk that have been observed using habitat on these properties include the Great blue heron (Ardea herodias fannini; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Special Concern; Blue-listed), blue dasher (Pachydiplax longipennis; SARA - Special Concern; Blue-listed), olive-sided flycatcher (Contopus cooperi; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Threatened; Yellow-listed), little brown myotis (Myotis lucifugus; COSEWIC - Endangered; SARA - Endangered; Blue-listed), northern red-legged frog (Rana Aurora; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Special Concern; Blue-listed), barn swallow (Hirundo rustica; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Threatened; Yellow-listed), common nighthawk (Chordeiles minor; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Threatened; Blue-listed), band-tailed pigeon (Patagioenas fasciata; COSEWIC - Special Concern; SARA - Special Concern; Blue-listed), and western pondhawk (Erythemis collocata; Blue-listed).

The properties include habitat that has the potential to support the western screech-owl kennicottii subspecies (Megascops kennicottii kennicottii; COSEWIC - Threatened; SARA - Threatened; Blue-listed), the peregrine falcon anatum subspecies (Falco peregrinus anatum; Red-listed), the Western painted turtle Pacific Coast population (Chrysemys picta bellini; COSEWIC - Threatened; SARA - Endangered; Red-listed), and sharp-tailed snake (Contia tenuis; COSEWIC - Endangered; SARA - Endangered; Red-listed). In 2025, passive acoustic monitoring at Quadra Hill and subsequent AI identification of recorded calls detected the possible presence of western screech-owl; further monitoring is necessary to corroborate this finding. In 2024, sharp-tailed snake was (re)confirmed present on Galiano Island, in parkland further south on the island. Peregrine falcons are known to nest just north of Talking Trees, in similar coastal habitat.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

The goals for this project, supporting a vision for a resilient and biodiverse landscape over the long-term, are as follows:

- Beaver (re)occupy and manage rich wetland and riparian ecosystems across MIPAN following targeted habitat enhancement and the removal of harmful human infrastructure, providing high-quality freshwater habitat for native amphibians and wildlife

- Second and third-growth Douglas-fir plantations provide habitat connectivity between, rather than a high fire risk adjacent to, mature Coastal Douglas-fir forests thanks to forest restoration and ecological fuel reduction treatments, exhibiting improved habitat characteristics including greater structural complexity, species composition, deadwood, and wildlife trees

- Target introduced species have been eliminated from sensitive ecosystems across MIPAN and are managed at reduced levels on disturbed sites that are on a defined trajectory to recovery

- Scenic, well-maintained trails provide meaningful but defined access to the full range of ecosystems found across MIPAN, with thoughtful directional and interpretive signage installed at key locations

- Properties within the Galiano Mid-Island Protected Areas Network (MIPAN) have up-to-date management plans that integrate the values and priorities of the GCA's Indigenous partners and incorporate recent innovations in the fields of conservation and ecological restoration

Specific management goals for each individual property will be developed individually as part of new or updated management plans through this project.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

All of the following documents are available through the Galiano Conservancy's "Knowledge Hub" on our website, under the 'Management Plans' heading. (https://galianoconservancy.ca/knowledge-hub/resource-type/management_plans/)

Talking Trees Nature Reserve

DL50 (now the Talking Trees Nature Reserve) had been on GCA's priority conservation list for many years because of the important old-growth and wetland habitats found there. In early 2024, DL50 was one of only 8 projects selected for financial support through the Old Growth Nature Fund (OGNF is administered by BC with financial support from ECCC), and we had just 60 days to close the purchase. OGNF support covered the full purchase price and some legal and associated costs incurred prior to closing, but included no funds for stewardship or management planning activities.. HCTF Land Stewardship funds would provide for the completion of a baseline report and management plan to guide ongoing stewardship at this site.

Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve

Great Beaver Swamp Baseline Report (Luning, 2006; Verbenkov & Brest van Kempen, revisions 2011)
Great Beaver Swamp Management Plan (Luning, 2007)

The Great Beaver Swamp management plan will turn 20 years old within the upcoming Land Stewardship grant period. Some updates are needed; in addition, input from local Indigenous leadership was not solicited in 2007, and would be an integral component of an update process.

Quadra Hill Nature Reserve

Quadra Hill Baseline Report (Huggins & Thompson, 2023)
Quadra Hill Management Plan (Huggins - in draft form, to be finalized in 2026)

A detailed baseline report was completed in 2023, and a management plan is currently undergoing revisions based on feedback from community members and local Indigenous leadership. It would be finalized and published during the Land Stewardship grant period.

Pebble Beach Reserve

Restoration Plan for District Lot 63 of the Pebble Beach Nature Reserve, Galiano Island (Gaylor, Scholz, & Erickson, 2002)
Pebble Beach Reserve Management Plan (Erickson, 1998)

The Pebble Beach Reserve Management Plan is over 25 years old, and some aspects are quite dated. Significant updates are needed; in addition, input from local Indigenous leadership was not solicited in 1998, and would be an integral component of an update process. The Restoration Plan, while pioneering at the time, is also dated, and would be supplanted by an updated management plan.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Partial Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

We have secured a donation of 1 gallon native plants left over from the Trans Mountain Expansion project, valued at $4000 for this project.

We are in regular contact with Chief and Council of Penelakut First Nation, as well as community leaders within the Indigenous Families of Galiano Island. We are currently building rapport and capacity for shared land stewardship activities through consistent communications, employment and training opportunities, Indigenous-led hunting, cultural monitors, and our new 5-year Restoring the Balance project. (https://galianoconservancy.ca/land-stewardship/restoring-the-balance-project/). Funding to support engagement with Indigenous Knowledge Holders is not accounted for in the project budget; the GCA will provide for this engagement as appropriate from internal funds.

Rewilding Water & Earth Inc. has partnered with the GCA on wetland restoration projects at both the Millard Learning Centre and Quadra Hill over the past 5 years. They provide expert planning and implementation support for wetland and creek restoration activities to the GCA at reduced rates, and will be involved in designing and implementing any restoration work on the properties involving repair of hydrology. The BCWF Wetlands Education Program has also supported GCA wetland restoration projects and partnered with the GCA to deliver educational programs over the past 5 years. The BCWF will provide support to process-based restoration activities on the properties in the form of planning, tool rental, and staff time. We estimate contributions from these partners conservatively at $1000.

Laurie Baines is a local Indigenous forest worker who is currently being trained as a Certified Faller by the GCA with generous support from an HCTF Capacity Grant (CAP-0000000267). After the Industry New Faller training is complete, Laurie will implement dangerous tree removal and forest thinning activities under the supervision of a Certified Faller until he is eligible to be fully certified himself, providing the GCA with a fixed and discounted day rate of $500/day for the duration of the project (the going rate for Certified Fallers is variable but is typically closer to $1000/day). Following certification, he will continue to prioritize GCA work and provide this preferred rate.

Based on a rate of $20/hr, we anticipate a minimum of $4060 in contributions from community volunteers and volunteer student interns over the course of the project.

We are applying to HCTF for just under half of the funds required to complete the Conservation Actions listed in our proposal. The majority of the remaining funds have already been secured and will be provided by the Gencon Foundation through the Restoring the Balance project, Environment and Climate Change Canada through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions fund; and funds generated annually through modest endowments associated with

some of the properties. Note that estimates of in-kind contributions from experts, volunteers, and other donors are conservative based on past experience, but have been listed as unconfirmed in the budget.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

For the past three years, volunteers have contributed between 600 to 900 volunteer hours annually to land stewardship and ecological restoration projects across GCA lands. Much of this effort has been concentrated at the Millard Learning Centre and, more recently, the Quadra Hill Nature Reserve due to active restoration and land stewardship programs on those properties (many of which have been funded in part by the HCTF).

The other properties in this proposal have received minimal volunteer involvement in recent years due in part to a lack of funding to coordinate and lead volunteer activities on those lands, and because volunteer effort has been focused elsewhere. The Pebble Beach Reserve is a well-known and highly-frequented protected area due to its recreational value, and stewardship activities there will likely attract volunteer interest. The Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve is located in the same neighbourhood and will benefit from its proximity to the Pebble Beach Reserve and the unique wildlife present in terms of attracting community interest.

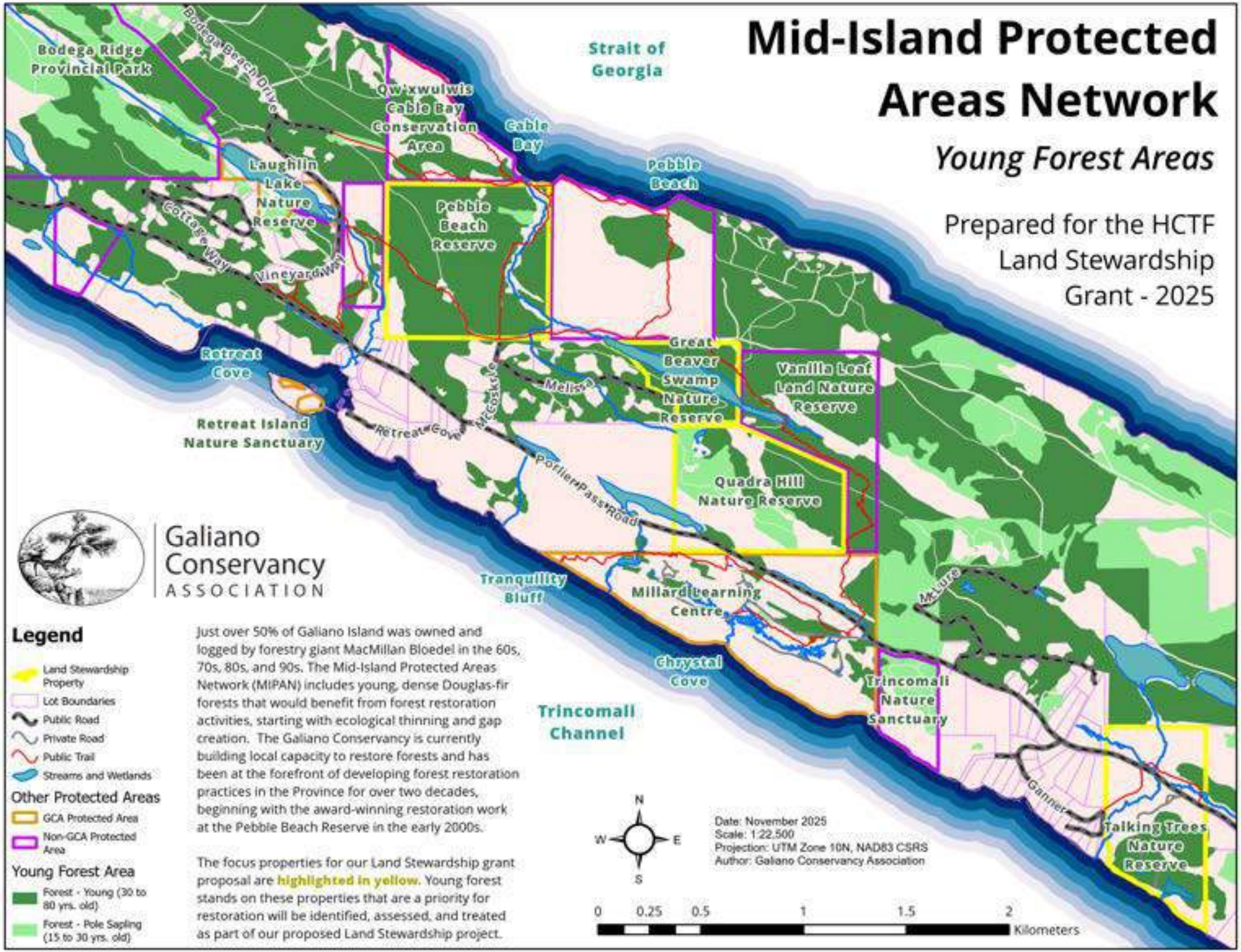
The Talking Trees Nature Reserve is a recent acquisition and has generated significant community interest due to the unique and sensitive ecosystems found there; broad community recognition of the importance of the property for conservation enabled us to raise most of the funds needed for a modest land stewardship endowment locally. We anticipate that there will be community interest in contributing to stewardship activities at this site, especially prior to the official public 'opening' of the property.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.


Mid-Island Protected Areas Network
Young Forest Areas
Prepared for the HCTF Land Stewardship Grant - 2025
Strait of Georgia
Bodega Ridge Provincial Park
Bodega Beach Drive
Qw'xwulwis Cable Bay Conservation Area
Cable Bay
Pebble Beach
Laughlin Lake Nature Reserve
Cottage Way
Vineyard Way
Pebble Beach Reserve
Retreat Cove
Retreat Island Nature Sanctuary
Retreat Cove
Arcoska Ln
Melrose
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve
Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve
Portlock Pass Road
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve
Tranquility Bluff
Millard Learning Centre
McLure
Chrystal Cove
Trincomali Channel
Trincomali Nature Sanctuary
Gannet
Talking Trees Nature Reserve
Galiano Conservancy ASSOCIATION
Legend
Land Stewardship Property
Lot Boundaries
Public Road
Private Road
Public Trail
Streams and Wetlands
Other Protected Areas
GCA Protected Area
Non-GCA Protected Area
Young Forest Area
Forest - Young (30 to 80 yrs. old)
Forest - Pole Sapling (15 to 30 yrs. old)
Just over 50% of Galiano Island was owned and logged by forestry giant MacMillan Bloedel in the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. The Mid-Island Protected Areas Network (MIPAN) includes young, dense Douglas-fir forests that would benefit from forest restoration activities, starting with ecological thinning and gap creation. The Galiano Conservancy is currently building local capacity to restore forests and has been at the forefront of developing forest restoration practices in the Province for over two decades, beginning with the award-winning restoration work at the Pebble Beach Reserve in the early 2000s.
The focus properties for our Land Stewardship grant proposal are highlighted in yellow. Young forest stands on these properties that are a priority for restoration will be identified, assessed, and treated as part of our proposed Land Stewardship project.
N
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Date: November 2025
Scale: 1:22,500
Projection: UTM Zone 10N, NAD83 CSRS
Author: Galiano Conservancy Association
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2
Kilometers

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Talking Trees Nature Reserve - Mid Island Protected Areas Network

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite
Overview - HCTF Funding

Subtotal:	$ 54,530.00
Admin Fee %	10%
Admin Fee $	$ 5,453.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 59,983.00**
Admin Note	

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Map ecosystems, survey for SAR, and document threats to inform the creation of a baseline report	Area assessed (ha)	41.97	Year 1
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Complete a baseline report for the property, including a detailed hydrological assessment and mapping of beaver dams, lodge(s) and activity	Baseline reports created (#)	1	Year 1
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Draft a management plan for the property and finalize based on community feedback and engagement with local Indigenous leaders	Documents created (#)	1	Year 2
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove and restore 1 partially-collapsed road crossing currently impacting Ganner Creek	Hydrologic structures added / removed (#)	1	Year 3
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	2. Species Management	Install BDAs along incised section of Ganner creek following road crossing removal and restoration, reversing down-cutting and expanding beaver habitat	Beaver dam analogues (#)	5	Year 3
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Perform targeted road and ditch removal as needed, based on management plan	Restoration projects completed (#)	1	Year 3
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Construct low-impact public trails to provide access to ecosystems and points of interest	Infrastructure built (#)	750	Year 1
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain and upgrade existing public trail across northern section of property, adding a boardwalk through sensitive riparian area	Trails maintained (km)	1.75	Annually
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Map occurrence of target introduced species across entire property as part of baseline assessment	Invasive species inventoried (#)	10	Year 1
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove and manage target introduced species (including Scotch broom, English holly, spurge laurel, common hawthorne, yellow flag iris, tansy ragwort, English ivy etc.) across entire property	Invasive species removed (ha)	41.97	Annually
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	3. Awareness	Install a welcome sign and maps with information about the property, ecosystems, First Nations values, and trails present at each public entrance to the property to inform and orient visitors	Signs created and installed (#)	5	Year 1
Talking Trees Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Perform annual Wildlife Danger Tree assessments for trails and other public interface areas, as well as work sites as needed; have dangerous trees removed by Certified Faller	Danger tree assessments completed (#)	3	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Finalize and publish Quadra Hill Stewardship Plan	Documents created (#)	1	Year 1
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Finalize and adopt First Nations Hunting Policy for Quadra Hill property	Documents created (#)	1	Year 1
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Perform live-staking and soil-bioengineering treatments as needed to stabilize surface water flows and enhance habitat in restored wetland area	Wetland enhanced (ha)	3	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Monitor the success of native plantings and live-stakes in restored wetland area to inform targeted replanting efforts and future planting design	Area monitored (ha)	3	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Establish additional native trees and shrubs as needed to replace dead plants and increase planting density and native plant cover in sensitive areas in restored wetland area	Native species planted (#)	350	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove target introduced species (including Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, cutleaf blackberry, teasel, tansy ragwort, English holly, common hawthorne, and clematis) from restored wetland area	Invasive species removed (ha)	3	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Perform follow-up thinning, girdling, and fuel management treatments as needed in established forest restoration plots in young Douglas-fir plantation, based on Quadra Hill Forests: Ecological Restoration Prescription (Hammond, Erickson, & Huggins, 2024)	Forest thinned (ha)	6.5	Annually
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Complete the construction of low-impact public loop trail to provide access to ecosystems and points of interest, including construction of a boardwalk through sensitive riparian area	Infrastructure built (#)	1.5	Year 2
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	3. Awareness	Install trail map and interpretive sign at public trailhead and forest restoration viewing area to inform and orient visitors	Signs created and installed (#)	2	Year 2
Quadra Hill Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Perform annual Wildlife Danger Tree assessments for trails and other public interface areas, as well as work sites as needed; have dangerous trees removed by Certified Faller	Danger tree assessments completed (#)	3	Annually
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Review and update management plan for Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	Documents/plans updated (#)	1	Year 2
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Map and document beaver dams, lodge(s), and activity using GPS and wildlife cameras to inform process-based restoration activities on upstream and downstream properties	Assessments completed (#)	1	Year 1
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove and manage target introduced species (including Scotch broom, English holly, spurge laurel, common hawthorne, yellow flag iris, tansy ragwort, English ivy etc.) across entire property (excluding shallow open water wetland area)	Invasive species removed (ha)	14	Annually
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Perform live-staking and soil-bioengineering treatments as needed to stabilize surface water flows and enhance habitat in restored seasonal creek and road removal area	Other (specify in notes column)		Year 1
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Establish additional native trees and shrubs as needed to establish native plant cover in sensitive areas in restored creek and road removal area	Native species planted (#)	50	Annually
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Assess forest condition, composition, density, habitat value, and fuel loads for young coniferous forest bordering roads and trails in upland portion of property	Area assessed (ha)	10	Year 1
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Create forest restoration prescription for Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve based on assessment	Documents created (#)	1	Year 2
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Carry out forest restoration prescription for young coniferous forest bordering roads and trails in upland portion of property	Forest thinned (ha)	3	Year 3
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain existing public trail across northern section of property	Trails maintained (km)	0.25	Annually
Great Beaver Swamp Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Perform annual Wildlife Danger Tree assessments for trails and other public interface areas, as well as work sites as needed; have dangerous trees removed by Certified Faller	Danger tree assessments completed (#)	3	Annually
Pebble Beach Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Review and update management plan for the Pebble Beach Reserve; review and update forest restoration prescription	Documents/plans updated (#)	2	Year 2
Pebble Beach Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove and manage target introduced species (including Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, cutleaf blackberry, tansy ragwort, English holly, and common hawthorne) from across property	Invasive species removed (ha)	61.54	Annually

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	$ 61,867.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$ 51,000.00

Pebble Beach Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Carry out updated forest restoration prescription for young coniferous forest patches bordering high-use roads and trails	Forest thinned (ha)	3	Year 2
Pebble Beach Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain and upgrade existing public trails	Trails maintained (km)	2.5	Annually
Pebble Beach Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Update and repair welcome sign and trail map	Signs maintained (#)	1	Year 2
Pebble Beach Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Perform annual Wildlife Danger Tree assessments for trails and other public interface areas, as well as work sites as needed; have dangerous trees removed by Certified Faller	Danger tree assessments completed (#)	3	Annually
DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE					

Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve

1-960

Application: Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve

- biologist@penderconservancy.org
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000018
Status: Approved/w Condition
Last submitted: Oct 30 2025 08:41 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Erin O'Brien
Project Leader Role/Title:	Ecology and Development Director
Email Address:	Biologist@penderconservancy.org
Work Phone:	250-222-0370
Cell Phone:	250-222-0370
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA)
Address:	#1-4301 Bedwell Harbour Road
City:	Pender Island
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V0N 2M1
Website:	www.penderconservancy.org

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59,917.30

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	January 18, 1993
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-29992
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	887391068RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Pender Islands Conservancy Association is a land trust founded on an appreciation of the natural beauty of the Pender Islands and surrounding Salish Sea, and an understanding of the importance of preserving the varied habitats found here. Our mission is to conserve Pender Island's natural environment through science-based conservation, community land stewardship and education that builds a culture of ecological responsibility. We are a registered charity and a member of both the Land Trust Alliance of BC and Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts.

Pender Islands Conservancy operations are funded in part by generous donor and member annual contributions, and we established a modest endowment fund in 2025 to build operational capacity in perpetuity; however, our success with securing conservation lands requires more funds to support. Our recent conservation land acquisitions have been completed in advance of deadlines, and we hold no mortgages or debt. Program costs are offset by consistent grant revenue, modest revenue from our Nature Centre gift shop, as well as annual contributions by family foundations and other donor advised funds. We manage an annual operating budget of approximately $500,000 and retain five staff to run our programs.

Our Ecology and Development Director holds a Ph.D. in biology and has over 20 years of experience managing research projects and associated budgets and staff. Our Operations Director holds a B.Sc. in biology and is a Registered Professional Biologist with over 20 years of project management experience. Part-time staff and contractors coordinate restoration, volunteer engagement, public outreach and native plant material acquisition and propagation. Our seven volunteer Directors provide valuable technical expertise in conservation planning, spatial analysis and imaging, fundraising, bookkeeping, policy development and governance. An enthusiastic and extensive contingent of over one hundred volunteers provide invaluable labour and expertise for invasive species removal, restoration planting, fencing and community outreach.

In the past four years, we have established nine Nature Reserves through 10 fee simple acquisitions. These properties are owned or co-owned outright and their acquisition has ensured the permanent securement of 155 acres (63 ha) of diverse habitats representative of the Coastal Douglas-Fir Moist Maritime biogeoclimatic subzone (CDFmm). Prior to completing these securements, the Pender Islands Conservancy has held or co-held 20 conservation covenants that have collectively protected 21.4 ha. Our staff assist these property owners with land stewardship (invasive species removal, native species planting, fuel management, biological inventory) in addition to assisting with annual covenant monitoring and reporting. In 2024, we established an endowment fund through

Victoria Foundation that provides up to $5000 annually in support of our capacity to manage Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve (see Conservation Property 1).

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

This project will support the land management and stewardship of two newly acquired PICA nature reserves (2024) on Clam Bay Road, Pender Island, BC. This will be accomplished through targeted activities: development of land management plans, implementation of invasive species removal, surveys and monitoring for rare species and wildlife, coordination of Sanctuary Stewards volunteer program and volunteer engagement, and development and maintenance of low impact trails for access for monitoring and land stewardship activities.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

---

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

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*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

19 ha

*How many properties are included in this application:

2

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	032-260-351
Latitude:	48.81021 N
Longitude:	-123.28746 W
Individual Property size (Ha):	15 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

This property was acquired by PICA in April 2024.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

There is no public access as this parcel is to be managed as a nature sanctuary for conservation purposes as per the donors' wishes. Involvement in the Sanctuary Stewards voluntary program through PICA by members of the public will allow for opportunities to visit the site and engage in land stewardship activities.

Property 2

Property Name:	Forest Wetland Nature Reserve
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	032-368-062
Latitude:	48.81151 N
Longitude:	-123.29158 W
Individual Property size (Ha):	4 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

Donated in November 2024 to PICA.

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

There is currently no public access as this parcel is to be managed as a nature sanctuary for conservation purposes. Development of a Management Plan will guide land management including access designation. Involvement in the Sanctuary Stewards voluntary program through PICA by members of the public will allow for opportunities to visit the site and engage in land stewardship activities.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

These two new PICA nature reserves provide ~19 ha of increased habitat connectivity to a growing network of protected areas in the northeast (Clam Bay Road) area of North Pender Island, adding to ~19.6 ha of existing protected lands in the immediate vicinity including: Lisa Baile Nature Reserve (4.0 ha/10 ac), Woodpecker Forest Covenant (3.6 ha/9 ac), Mount Elizabeth Park (2.7 ha/6.6 ac), Ledingham covenant (3 lots, 1 ha/2.6 ac), Clam Bay Covenant (6.8 ha/16.7 ac), and Garry Oaks Covenant (1.5 ha/3.6 ac).

Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve (VRNR) (15 ha): this reserve falls within the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone, one of the rarest zones and of high conservation value. The parcel provides significant habitat connectivity to an extensive and growing network of protected areas on the northeast area of North Pender Island. The steep terrain and elevation range supports a diversity of ecosystems and a variety of vegetation on site, from lower elevation mixed forests to higher elevation open bluff habitats. There are large rock formations in the high elevations of the property that may provide nesting sites for Turkey Vultures, as juvenile vultures have been seen along this ridge. A veteran Tree Inventory was completed in February 2024 by PICA and demonstrated that the site supported mature forests with a high density of veteran trees (250 trees with minimum 0.75m dbh, with an overall density of 17.1 old-growth trees/ha). Threaded Vertigo (Vertigo rowelli, Special Concern) have been observed.

There is suitable habitat for several other rare species such as the Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) where there are potential nesting areas at the highest elevations of the property on the south side where there is open bluff habitat. There is suitable habitat for Sharp-tailed Snake (Contia tenuis) in the south-facing bluffs, and this species is known to occur nearby along the same south-facing ridgeline. Sharp-tailed Snakes require open meadow and bluff habitats with sunny exposures that can provide thermoregulation and aestivation sites, as well as biophysical attributes such as loose rocks, decaying logs and woody debris for sheltering in. Several species of bats likely occur on the property as well as there is suitable roosting habitat with the numerous veteran trees and the open bluff habitat which is ideal for foraging. Northern Red-legged Frog (Rana aurora) is also likely to occur on the land in the lower elevation mixed forests where several Pacific Treefrogs were observed.

Forest Wetland Nature Reserve (4 ha): this reserve falls within the rare Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone. This property contains four ecological communities that are Red-listed in BC (endangered/threatened) which span a significant elevational and topographic gradient. The forests are dominated by mature second-growth (>80 years old) Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii) and Western red-cedar (Thuja plicata) with big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum) filling natural canopy gaps. The northern end consists of a moist forest dominated by grand fir (Abies grandis) and Western redcedar. The land extends to the south through relatively dry Douglas-fir dominated forest to two successive plateaus; the southernmost plateau supports a small, perched skunk cabbage wetland (Lysichiton americanus). Slough sedge (Carex obnupta), lady fern (Athyrium filix-femina), sword fern (Polystichum munitum) and nettles (Urtica sp.) also grow in the saturated soils that create a critical climate refugium for invertebrates and amphibians. The ridge at the southern edge of the property is dominated by veteran Douglas-fir and arbutus, with patches of Garry oak and associated meadow species (chocolate lily, Fritillaria affinis; common camas, Camassia quamash; fawn lily, Erythronium oregonum). Additional unique microhabitats are created by the boulders and cliffs below the ridge. The diversity of habitat types, including forest wetlands and Garry oak meadows, greatly enhances the conservation value of this property.

Species at risk detected include common nighthawk (Chordeiles minor), purple martin (Progne subis arboricola), and olive-sided flycatcher (Contopus cooperi). Threaded vertigo (Nearctula sp.) has been documented on Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve, approximately 100 m from the Subject Property, and suitable habitat features including mature big-leaf maple (Acer macrophyllum) are present on the Subject Property. Abundant woody debris and diverse microclimate habitats along the bluff are typical of sharp-tailed snake (Contia tenuis).

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Management Plans have not yet been developed for these two new nature reserves as they are recent acquisitions by PICA. Development of Management Plans will guide the thorough development of conservation goals and objectives for each reserve. The overarching management goal for the two nature reserves is to manage and steward the land for conservation purposes (i.e. providing and improving habitat for wildlife and rare species and supporting increased biodiversity and habitat connectivity for wildlife).

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

The Application to the Ecological Gifts Program provides some background ecological assessment of the Forest Wetland Nature Reserve. As both nature reserves in this application are new acquisitions for PICA, this funding will support development of Management Plans to guide land stewardship at the sites.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Raincoast Conservation Foundation and/or Islands Trust Conservancy will be potential covenant holders for these properties in future.

Pender Islands Conservancy Association is in the early stages of building relationships with the W̱SÁNEĆ community, particularly in the context of recent land acquisitions; youth and elders have attended events on PICA's two initial nature reserves (acquired in 2021 and 2022) to re-establish connections with these places and to provide opportunities for intergenerational knowledge sharing. PICA will continue to build its relationship with local First Nations and plans to engage the W̱SÁNEĆ in site visits and cultural activities to these two newly acquired nature reserves.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

PICA is building a Sanctuary Stewards program to train and engage the public to assist with land stewardship activities on PICA's newly acquired nature reserves. PICA also hosts volunteer work parties each year on their reserves to engage the public in invasive species removal efforts.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Test Property

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding		
Subtotal:	$	52,102.00
Admin Fee %	15%	
Admin Fee $	$	7,815.30
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	$	59,917.30
Admin Note		

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	
Additional Funding Confirmed	

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Removal of Scotch Broom in open Garry Oak meadow habitat on a portion of the reserve annually	Invasive species removed (m^3)	50	Annually
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	3. Awareness	Development and installation of reserve boundary signage	Signs created and installed (#)	2	Year 1
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Development of Management Plan for the nature reserve to guide land management and stewardship	Documents created (#)	1	Year 1
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Monitor for Species at Risk (e.g. Sharp-tailed Snake, Common Nighthawk) and other wildlife to guide future land management objectives and activities.	Native species inventoried (#)	2	Annually
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	1a. Ecosystem Based	Removal of Himalyan Blackberry in mixed forests on a portion of the reserve annually	Invasive species removed (ha)	50	Annually
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	9. Training	Support of Sanctuary Stewards program to engage volunteer participation in reserve land management activities and train stewards. Coordination of volunteer work parties.	Individuals trained (#)	4	Annually
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Development and maintenance of low impact trail for access to minimize soil disturbance in steep terrain and allow access for site monitoring and land management activities.	Trails maintained (km)	1	Annually
Forest Wetland Nature Reserve	3. Awareness	Development and installation of reserve boundary signage	Signs created and installed (#)	1	Year 1
Forest Wetland Nature Reserve	6. Planning & Designation	Development of Management Plan for the nature reserve to guide land management and stewardship	Documents created (#)	1	Year 2
Forest Wetland Nature Reserve	9. Training	Support of Sanctuary Stewards program to engage volunteer participation in reserve land management activities and train stewards. Coordination of volunteer work parties.	Individuals trained (#)	1	Annually
Forest Wetland Nature Reserve	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct Species at Risk and wildlife inventories to determine what species are present and to guide future land management and stewardship activities.	Native species inventoried (#)	1	Year 1
Forest Wetland Nature Reserve	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain and reinforce existing access trail.	Trails maintained (km)	1	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

KELÁ_EKE
Kingfisher Forest
1-961

Application: KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest

Priya Puri - priya@raincoast.org
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000025
Status: Approved - CGA Signing
Last submitted: Mar 19 2026 01:47 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Priya Puri
Project Leader Role/Title:	Forest Conservation Program Coordinator
Email Address:	priya@raincoast.org
Work Phone:	250-655-1229
Cell Phone:	604-374-4550
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Raincoast Conservation Foundation
Address:	P.O. Box 2429
City:	Sidney
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8L 3Y3
Website:	raincoast.org

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59,940.00

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	April 1st 1996
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-33790
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	#889643565 RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

a) Raincoast Conservation Foundation (Raincoast) is a science-based registered charity that applies a unique model of informed advocacy to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of coastal British Columbia (BC). Led by a team of conservationists and scientists, Raincoast's projects are rooted in rigorous, peer-reviewed research and science, and informed by community engagement. Our team is empowered by our research to safeguard the land, waters, and wildlife of coastal BC. Our mandate is investigate, inform, inspire: we investigate to understand coastal species and processes, we inform by bringing science to decision-makers and communities, and we inspire action to protect wildlife and wildlife habitats. Our vision for coastal BC is to protect the habitats and resources of umbrella species. We believe this approach will help safeguard all species, including people, and ecological processes that exist at different scales. Central to all of our efforts are long-standing relationships with Indigenous communities.

In the early 1990s, Raincoast Conservation was a non-profit society of volunteers that worked to safeguard terrestrial habitats in the Great Bear Rainforest. In 1996, the Raincoast Conservation Foundation was established and obtained Canadian charity status, with Chris Genovali becoming the organization's first executive director. Raincoast steadily expanded its work to embrace and engage in significant scientific research, hiring biologists and scientists to lead our flagship programs. By the late 2000s, Raincoast's geographic scope had expanded down the coast to include the Salish Sea.

Today, our research and conservation work centers on the following flagship programs: Wild Salmon, Cetacean Conservation Research, Wolf Conservation, Healthy Waters, Safeguarding Coastal Carnivores, and Forest Conservation. In support of this work, Raincoast also operates an applied conservation research lab at the University of Victoria, a conservation genetics lab at the Pacific Science Enterprise Centre, runs a 68-foot Transport Canada certified research sailing vessel, and a coastal ecosystem-focused land trust, making it unique in Canada. Complementary to our flagship programs is our Salish Sea Emerging Stewards youth education program, which provides immersive learning experiences for underserved youth. Our on-the-ground presence, coupled with our rigorous peer-reviewed science, is distinctive among environmental groups and has given us a deep-rooted understanding of BC's vast coastline, its processes, and its people.

Land Stewardship funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation would support Raincoast's Forest Conservation Program (FCP) as our land trust operations are carried under the FCP's scope and breadth of work. Established to analyze regional land use policy in 2019, Raincoast's FCP has grown to address conservation challenges within Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) ecosystems and associated habitats through policy analysis, public education, climate action, and by purchasing, connecting, and restoring threatened habitats. The FCP overall seeks to strengthen protection and stewardship of globally rare and locally threatened CDF ecosystems and

associated habitats through land purchase and community engagement.

Raincoast's land trust has successfully acquired two conservation properties totalling 23.47 Ha in partnership with the Pender Islands Conservancy on S'DAYES (North Pender Island): S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest (5.26 acres, protected in 2021) and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest (18.21 Ha, protected in 2023). The acquisition of these properties was pivotal in protecting CDF ecosystems slated to be converted into residential developments. These properties now lend us the opportunity to involve the local community and youth in the stewardship of these lands. Since acquiring the two properties, we've successfully hosted community engagements, such as a W̱SÁNEĆ salmon cookout, and educational and restoration activities at both properties. Having recently established our land trust in 2021 and being acutely aware of rapidly advancing stressors threatening CDF ecosystems and associated habitats, Raincoast's FCP seeks to take innovative and collaborative approaches to steward and conserve our protected areas for ecological, cultural, and community value.

b) Raincoast's overall annual operating budget is $5,379,900 CAD, and funding is derived from a multitude of sources, including individual donations, private and public foundations, businesses, and government (provincial and federal) funds. The FCP, one of the smallest and youngest of Raincoast's flagship programs, has an annual operating budget of $215,000 CAD. The FCP is primarily funded by private and public foundations, with additional financial support derived from government (provincial and federal) grants and donors. Given the nature of work conducted by our land trust, the FCP's annual operating budget will likely increase as we are now undertaking active long-term management, monitoring, and restoration at our conservation properties.

c) Raincoast employs 25 staff members overall, and annually engages anywhere from 15 to over 30 volunteers. The FCP is run by one full-time staff member, with additional support from one part-time advisor staff member and Raincoast's two leadership staff. Additionally, the FCP receives support from Raincoast's communications, development, and mapping staff, consisting of two full-time and two part-time staff members. The FCP stands out as one of Raincoast's programs that facilitates the greatest number of volunteer opportunities, where local communities and youth have participated in invasive species pulling, native species planting, bird counts, big tree measurement, and more educational activities centered on land stewardship.

As a smaller program, the FCP seeks to maximize its impact by collaborating and building long-term working partnerships with other Salish Sea-based organizations, local communities, and Indigenous Nations. These long-term partnerships with our collaborators have allowed us to expand our reach and more effectively work towards shared conservation goals, while maintaining a small team centered in the Salish Sea.

d) Raincoast has been pursuing conservation of BC's coastal terrestrial ecosystems for 30 years and was founded in pursuit of conserving and protecting the Great Bear Rainforest. Since the early 2000s, Raincoast, with the

support of our First Nations partners, has been working to protect the keystone species and habitats of over 38,000 km2 of BC's central coast.

Inspired by the effectiveness of our work in the Great Bear Rainforest to protect threatened species and their habitats, Raincoast's land trust was established in 2021 as an investment in the collective future of all the human and non-human communities that call the Salish Sea home. While we have a long history of acquiring and managing capital assets and experiencing conservation success in the CDF region and beyond, we partnered with the Pender Islands Conservancy to co-purchase S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. The Pender Islands Conservancy is an organization with two decades of experience pursuing land protection on North and South Pender Islands. This long-term partnership with the Pender Islands Conservancy has been a crucial strategy for establishing community trust and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our conservation investments.

Raincoast also has experience in successful large-scale habitat restoration through our work in the Fraser River estuary to conserve juvenile salmon habitat. We've undertaken invasive cattail removal in the Woods Island marsh and planted over 10,000 native species post-removal. Major restoration projects of note in the Fraser River estuary have been creating two 30-meter-wide breaches in the North Arm jetty to restore fish passage for juvenile salmon.

All together, Raincoast's experience in the Great Bear Rainforest, entering long-term land protection partnerships, and completing major habitat restoration projects puts the FCP in a strong position to undertake active conservation land management in the CDF region. While Raincoast has decades of conservation experience and is well-resourced, pursuing land protection work in one of the most expensive regions of the country is not without its challenges.

Recent conservation activities at both S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest include the removal of invasive Daphne laureola (daphne), often with the help of local community volunteers. At S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest, artificial cover objects were installed to monitor wetland amphibian species and Contia tenuis (sharp-tailed snake). S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest also hosts a planted Quercus garryana (Garry oak) meadow that is monitored and maintained by a local community member. Removal of invasive species, such as Cytisus scoparius (scotch broom) and planting of native species, such as Camasia quamash (common camas), is ongoing in the meadow. Monitoring of terrestrial species is ongoing at both properties, and tools such as wildlife cameras and bat echolocation detectors have been installed, in addition to preliminary surveys of permanent vegetation plots. At KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, soil carbon sampling at permanent plots has been completed to acquire baseline soil carbon sequestration data. Significant restoration activities have recently been completed at KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, with the building of a wetland basin and the decommissioning of roads and trails. Native species planting and removal of invasive Phalaris arundinacea (reed canary grass) is also ongoing at Gardom Pond, an

existing wetland habitat on the perimeter of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest.

Professional biologists have recently conducted surveys at both S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest for species inventory and species at risk to inform stewardship activities while formal conservation management plans are in development. During summer 2025, a Salish Sea-based professional biologist specializing in conservation management plans visited both properties. Currently, draft management plans are in progress, and we have received preliminary directions for the long-term actions needed to restore and conserve our protected areas for maximum ecological integrity and community value.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

Through active land stewardship, we will conserve the ecological, cultural, and community values of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. Our goal is to protect, restore, and conserve threatened Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems and associated habitats to increase local biodiversity and mitigate the rapidly progressing impacts of climate change. To achieve our goal, we will work with local W̱SÁNEĆ community members and experts, professional biologists, our long-term project partners, and experienced local stewards to carry out holistic management actions for the sustainable conservation of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems and associated habitats.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

---

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

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*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

23.47

*How many properties are included in this application:

2

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	000-102-474
Latitude:	48.776595839542516
Longitude:	-123.24866922409024
Individual Property size (Ha):	18.21

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

2 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest is a conservation property, privately co-owned by Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Pender Islands Conservancy.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

As KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest is a privately held conservation property, it is not open for public access or recreation. Public access is restricted in an effort to protect sensitive species habitat and minimize human impacts that alter ecosystem structures and wildlife behaviour. Instead, organized community stewardship and education activities are held throughout the year to work with the local community and demonstrate the value of protecting threatened ecosystems and habitats, while also giving people the opportunity to partake in land stewardship. The southwest corner of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest shares a border with a Capital Regional District park trail that is frequented by local and visiting hikers and dog walkers. Near the 'entrance' to KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest on the north side of the property, there is a shared border with a local winery that has a public tasting room, so there is often vehicle and foot traffic nearby the north side of the property. Surrounding KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest are private, rural residential properties, and several neighbours are still known to enter the property to walk, often with off leash dogs.

Property 2

Property Name:	S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-243-772
Latitude:	48.77334064775507
Longitude:	-123.2856614314597
Individual Property size (Ha):	5.26

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

4 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is a conservation property, privately co-owned by Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Pender Islands Conservancy.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

As S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is a privately held conservation property, it is not open for public access or recreation. Public access is restricted in an effort to protect sensitive species habitat and minimize human impacts that alter ecosystem structures and wildlife behaviour. Instead, organized community stewardship and education activities are held throughout the year to work with the local community and demonstrate the value of protecting threatened ecosystems and habitats, while also giving people the opportunity to partake in land stewardship. There is a planted and fenced Garry oak meadow in the upper east corner of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest that is stewarded by a local resident of the immediately neighbouring property, with whom we have a recognized agreement to access the property. Surrounding S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest are private, rural residential properties, and several neighbours are known to cut through the property to access theirs, often with off leash dogs.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

In the spring of 2021, Raincoast successfully applied to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Public Conservation Assistance Fund for the S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest Restoration Project (PCAF--0000000008), for which HCTF provided $5,000 of funding in 2021. The funding supported preliminary restoration activities at S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest, including invasive species removal, native species planting, community stewardship events, and purchase of restoration and monitoring materials. The current project application is connected to the aforementioned past project as it also includes the stewardship and management of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest, but on a broader and long-term scale, informed by conservation management plans.

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest both occur in the CDF biogeoclimatic zone. Nearly every ecological community associated with the CDF is provincially listed in BC as threatened or endangered due to ongoing development, limited protection policy, and high proportions of private land ownership. Accumulating with those threats are the twin biodiversity and climate change crises. Below are ecological descriptions outlining the significance of protecting amidst the threats the CDF zone is currently facing.

Property 1: KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest (18.21 Ha) links wetland headwaters to intertidal foreshore across CDF forests and associated habitats. It is home to maturing Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii (coastal Douglas-fir), Thuja plicata (western redcedar), and Arbutus menziesii (arbutus). KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest connects to Plumper Sound, which is a critical habitat for Southern Resident killer whales. Over 90% of the property is forested by Douglas-fir–salal and Douglas-fir–grand fir–Oregon grape ecological communities. A small proportion of the land (approximately 4%) is occupied by wetland habitat (named Gardom Pond) that is ecologically classified by provincial Sensitive Ecosystem Mapping as “Freshwater lake” and western redcedar–skunk cabbage swamp.

The namesake for the property, Megaceryle alcyon (belted kingfishers), require access to bodies of water for feeding and earthen banks for nesting, and belted kingfisher nests have been recorded on the northwest side of the property facing the ocean. Despite being listed as a species of least concern by COSEWIC, belted kingfisher population numbers have been declining for the past two decades due to their sensitivity to human disturbance and habitat loss. KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest protects important habitat for belted kingfishers, a species that connects marine and forest ecosystems.

In the summer months, KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest provides habitat for bat species, such as Myotis californicus (California myotis) and Eptesicus fuscus (big brown bats), among others. Riparian areas and ephemeral wetlands crisscross the forest floor, providing ideal conditions for Elgaria coerula (western alligator lizards) and Taricha granulosa (rough-skinned newts). The deeper organic soils found in KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest have a high water storage capacity, buffering the severity of summer drought, essential for ecosystem resilience in the face of

climate change. This increased soil moisture also supports the growth of Polystichum munitum (sword fern) and a vast variety of bryophytes within the Gaultheria shallon (salal) understory.

Mammals such as Neogale vision (mink), Lontra canadensis (river otters), and Castor canadensis (North American beaver) are frequent visitors to both KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and Gardom Pond, the wetland directly abutting the southern edge of the property. A variety of amphibian species, such as Rana aurora (Northern red-legged frogs; listed as Special Concern in both BC and in Schedule 1 of SARA) and Pseudacris regilla (Pacific chorus frogs), and over 100 bird species find habitat in KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. Some bird species recorded to date include seven warblers, nine sparrows, and three owl species. A small breeding colony of Cepphus columba (pigeon guillemots) is found on the northeast cliffs along Plumper Sound. Habitat supporting multi-level trophic cascades is protected in KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, such as habitat for Astur cooperii (Cooper's hawk) and Accipiter striatus (sharp-shinned hawk) that feed on the smaller birds found on the property. There is also a known Haliaeetus leucocephalus (bald eagle) nesting tree on the north west edge of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest.

As KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest borders Plumper Sound, it should be noted that the Sound is an overwintering place for hundreds, if not thousands, of seabirds. Red-listed and SARA Special Concern species, Aechmophorus occidentalis (western grebes) and Podiceps auritus (horned grebe), can often be seen in the Sound during the winter months. Large groups of other overwintering grebes (3 species), loons (3 species), mergansers (3 species), alcids (5 species), cormorants (3 species), and ducks (6 species) can be seen close to the shores of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. Other species listed on SARA schedule 1 commonly found on and around KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest include Patagioenas fasciata (band-tailed Pigeons; Special Concern), Chordeiles minor (common nighthawks; Threatened), Ardea herodias spp. fannini (Pacific Great Blue Heron coastal subspecies; Special concern), Contopus cooperi (olive-sided flycatchers; Threatened), Hirundo rustica (Barn Swallows; Threatened), and Coccothraustes vespertinus (evening grosbeaks; Special Concern). A large breeding group of band-tailed pigeons has been known to overwinter at KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. Observations of Nannopterum auritum (double-breasted cormorants) have been made near the shorelines of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and are Blue-listed (or "special concern") in BC.

Though now uncommon to the CDF due to significant habitat loss since settler arrival on the landscape, Cervus canadensis roosevelti (Roosevelt elk) were once native to this range, and a pair have been known to swim from Saturna Island to KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, with their last known visit taking place in 2021. Though Blue-listed in BC, Roosevelt elk are currently unlisted by COSEWIC. Instead, overabundant ungulate species consisting of non-native Dama dama (fallow deer) and native Odocoileus hemionus hemionus (black tail deer) decimate the understory through intense browsing and threaten significant habitat for many of the aforementioned native and migratory bird species.

With the recent construction of a new wetland basin at KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, observations of Northern red-legged frogs have already been made in the wetland. As this new wetland establishes and further stewardship actions are taken, we expect to observe an increase in biodiversity across trophic levels as the wetland will provide refugia for CDF species relying on forested riparian habitat. We have already observed examples of increasing biodiversity in the riparian area of Gardom Pond, where invasive reed canary grass and Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle) have been removed and replaced with native species in two 5x20 m exclosures. Native riparian species, such as Achillea millefolium (yarrow), Symphyotrichum subspicatum (Douglas aster), Helenium autumnale (sneezeweed), Anaphalis margaritacea (pearly everlasting), Festuca roemeri (Roemer's fescue), and more support local pollinator populations and stabilize the wetland soils, and will continue to facilitate the return of more biodiversity as restoration advances.

Property 2: S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest (5.26 Ha) features a mosaic of CDF habitat types, including a forested wetland and a Garry oak meadow. It is representative of rare and increasingly threatened CDF ecosystems and forms the edge of one of the few remaining contiguous forest patches on S,DÁYES (North Pender Island). Key ecological communities that comprise the total area of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest are:
-Mature (31,827 m2) and young Douglas-fir–salal forest (6,153 m2)
-Wetland (6,574 m2) western redcedar–sword fern–skunk cabbage
-Young western redcedar–Grand fir–foamflower forest (3,182 m2)
-Mature and young Douglas-fir–shore Pine–arbutus (1,300 m2)
-Young Douglas-fir–grand fir–Oregon grape (1,061 m2)
The remaining 3,789 m2 of the property were not classified under ecological communities and were instead identified as "Rural Residential" due to some land clearing that had historically taken place on this property prior to protection.

S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest provides essential habitat for native songbirds, and the wetland near the property's north-western corner is a significant nesting site for numerous bird species, such as the property's namesake, olive-sided flycatchers, that find their homes in the fringes of forests bordering wetlands. Olive-sided flycatchers have been federally listed as 'threatened' due to habitat loss; therefore, the conservation and stewardship of wildlife habitat within S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is an important step in preventing threatened species, like the olive-sided flycatchers, from becoming extirpated or extinct.

The front area of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest supports a healthy grove of maturing western redcedar trees. Moving toward the wetland at the north-western corner of the property, species characteristic to riparian areas of the CDF zone become abundant, including Holodiscus discolor (oceanspray), Acer macrophyllum (bigleaf maple), and Alnus rubra (red alder). A coastal Douglas-fir–arbutus forest surrounds the wetland, comprised of massive mature trees as well as their tiny progeny sprouting from the groundcover moss. In the forested area buffering the wetland,

Lonicera hirsuta (hairy honeysuckle), Mahonia aquifolium (Oregon grape), sword fern, Goodyera oblongifolia (rattlesnake-plantain orchids), and Sanicula crassicaulis (Pacific sanicle) thrive on the forest floor.

S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest supports biodiverse, healthy, and productive wildlife populations. During the summer, families of Setophaga coronata (yellow-rumped warblers), Tudus migratorius (American robins), Leuconotopicus villosus (hairy woodpeckers), Dryobates pubescens (downy woodpeckers), and Sphyrapicus ruber (red-breasted sapsuckers) are observed. At dawn, S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest fills with the songs of Catharus ustulatus (Swainson's thrushes), Troglodytes pacificus (Pacific wrens), Leiothlypis celata (orange-crowned warblers), Piranga ludoviciana (western tanagers), Haemorhous mexicanus (house finches), Vireo cassinii (Cassin's vireos), Junco hyemalis (dark-eyed juncos), Pipilo maculatus (spotted towhees), Empidonax difficilis (Pacific-slope flycatchers), and many more. S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest supports species at multiple trophic levels, such as Certhia americana (brown creepers), Sitta canadensis (red-breasted nuthatches), Regulus satrapa (golden-crowned kinglets), and Poecile rufescens (chestnut-backed chickadees) that forage for invertebrates in the furrowed bark of coastal Douglas-fir and foliage of arbutus. At a time when overabundant browsing from non-native Dama dama (fallow deer) and native Odocoileus hemionus hemionus (black tail deer) are adding to the cumulative threats to the habitats of native and migratory bird species that rely on CDF ecosystems for shelter and forage, it is critically important to conserve and steward places like S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest that provide habitat for over 45 bird species, many of which are threatened and endangered due to habitat loss.

Even at the peak of summer drought, the wetland has a high level of standing water, demonstrating the high storage capacity of the surrounding soils. This wetland and the surrounding riparian area serve as an oasis for amphibian species, such as Pacific chorus frogs and rough-skinned newts, bird species, such as Cardellina pusilla (Wilson's warblers), Melospiza melodia (song sparrows), olive-sided flycatchers, and Vireo gilvus (warbling vireos), and bat species, such as California myotis, Lasionycterus notivagans (silver-haired bats), big brown bats, and Corynorhinus townsendii (Townsend's big-eared bats). Mammals contributing to the ecological structure of the forest have been observed on the property, such as Ondatra zibethicus (muskrats), and evidence of North American beaver activity can be seen on the gnawed bark of the surrounding western redcedar trees.

Upslope from the wetland in the east corner of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is a native Garry oak meadow that was planted in 2022 to restore an area degraded by soil compaction and overrun by invasive species. This meadow hosts a diversity of native herbaceous meadow species that are all currently experiencing habitat loss due to the ongoing threats plaguing Garry oak ecosystems. Culturally and ecologically important flowering species such as Camassia quamash (common camas), Camassia leichtlinii (great camas), Primula pauciflora var. pauciflora (few-flowered shooting star), Plectritis congesta (sea blush), yarrow, Allium amplectens (slimleaf onion), and more facilitate increasing biodiversity in S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest by supporting native pollinator communities. Garry oak saplings, in addition to Danthonia californica (California oatgrass) and Elymus glaucus (blue wildrye),

complement the native flowering species. Over time, a complete Garry oak meadow ecosystem will establish and support a plethora of endangered and threatened Garry oak ecosystem species that rely on this declining habitat type.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Land Stewardship funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation will support the below restoration, monitoring, and engagement goals that will work together for the overall management of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest. The below goals seek to address the following key conservation threats facing the CDF biogeoclimatic zone: biodiversity loss, climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, wildfire and flood risk, and industrial and old-growth logging. Noted in parentheses for restoration and monitoring is if the sub-goal pertains to both or one property only. Engagement goals apply to both properties.

1. Restoration of disturbed, invaded, and fragmented CDF habitats. We aim to create conditions that will foster the progression of old-growth forest characteristics and landscape-scale ecological heterogeneity to increase biodiversity and mitigate climate change-induced risks such as wildfires and flooding.
1.a. Restoration of native biodiversity in wetland habitat through the removal of invasive species and planting of native species. (Gardom Pond, KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest).
1.b. Restoration of fragmented forest–wetland habitat through gravel road decommissioning (500 m) and building of wetland and riparian forest buffer habitat. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest).
1.c. Restoration of fragmented forest habitat through rough-and-loosing and rewilding 500+ m of human-made trail networks. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).
1.d. Restoration of heterogeneous single-aged stands of coastal Douglas-fir through thinning treatments, including the creation of wildlife trees. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest)
1.e. Restoration of understory nutrient cycling, soil moisture retention, and carbon sequestration through the implementation nurse logs which emulate old-growth forest ecosystem characteristics. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).

2. Monitoring native species and physical properties pre- and post-restoration. We aim to establish permanent, standardized, and long-term monitoring programs to analyze changes in biodiversity and ecological characteristics pre- and post-restoration, while also contributing to the growing CDF region-wide need for baseline data in the face of climate change shifting ecological baselines. Monitoring data will inform how we prioritize our ongoing management and provide a basis for introducing and trialling new conservation methods as we progress with land stewardship. For example, a key intent for monitoring understory vegetation is to acquire a baseline for what

understory vegetation cover and diversity looks like before and after the long-term management of non-native black tail and invasive fallow deer. Monitoring bird populations in tandem with vegetation monitoring will also provide a more cohesive picture of the ecological cascades returning to the landscape in response to stewardship practices, such as deer management and native species planting in exclosures.

2.a. Monitor vegetation of all ecosystem types identified by Terrestrial and Sensitive Ecosystem mapping and set up permanent sampling plots that will be annually monitored. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).
2.b. Monitor amphibians and reptiles using artificial cover objects in wetland riparian buffer zones. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).
2.c. Monitoring bird populations using point counts, walking surveys, and bird boxes seasonally, such as during nesting season. (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).
2.d. Monitoring Garry oak meadow species for survival, percent cover, and fecundity. (S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest).
2.e. Monitoring invasive species present on the landscape to determine where native species habitat is most threatened, and subsequently, to determine priority areas for removal. Invasive species found to date at both properties (KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest) are listed below. Species with an * preceding the name are those that have already been priortized for removal efforts at both properties.
-English holly (Ilex aquifolium),
-English ivy (Hedera helix),
-Himalayan blackberry (Rubus amereniacus),
-*Spurge-laurel (Daphne laureola),
-*Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius),
-Purple foxglove (Digitalis purpurea),
-*Reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea),
-*Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense),
-Tansy ragwort (Jacobaea vulgaris),
-Oxeye daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare),
-Common cat’s ear (Hypochaeris radicata)
It is important to note that above planned monitoring described in 2.a-e can in many cases be completed at the same time and often at the same seasonal points annually to maximize the efficiency of data collection time.

3. Engagement with local Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and organizations with shared missions. We recognize there is an inextricable link between people and place in the CDF ecosystems of the Salish Sea, and our intention is to steward our protected areas in a way that honours the link between people and place. We seek to accomplish this goal by consistently and meaningfully engaging with and learning from local W̱SÁNEĆ community members, Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and Cultural Monitors. Additionally, we recognize that settler

communities in the CDF region live in the Wildlife Urban Interface (WUI) on private lands and as such, are responsible for the stewardship of their properties and have developed skill sets applicable to carrying out our conservation management goals. In addition to organizations we have pre-existing relationships with, such as the Pender Islands Conservancy, we seek to engage with additional CDF-based land conservancy organizations for knowledge and resource sharing opportunities. Engagement offers learning opportunities in both directions, where we as an organization can learn from the wealth of knowledge held in local communities (Indigenous and non-Indigenous), and conversely, where hands-on learning opportunities can demonstrate to local communities the value of conserving CDF ecosystems.

3.a. Engage with W̱SÁNEĆ values, SḴÁLS (laws, teachings, and beliefs), and 13 Moons Calendar to ensure that restoration, monitoring, and management practices align with and are informed by the culture of the people who have been stewarding these landscapes since time immemorial. As we develop our conservation management plans, we are striving to use a relational approach, honouring W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge systems to restore degraded ecological communities, replenish food and medicine systems, increase carbon sequestration capacity, and maximize climate resilience.
3.b. Engage with W̱SÁNEĆ communities to create opportunities for the practice of Indigenous land stewardship, such as deer culling, that support intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural revitalization on traditional territories.
3.c. Engage with local private land owners and neighbours on S,DÁYES (North Pender Island) to be a part of land stewardship. As a result of a high proportion of privately owned lands in the CDF region, many local community members are knowledgeable and able to volunteer in restoration activities, such as invasive species pulling and native species planting. Conversely, many local residents are also seeking out educational opportunities to learn how to steward their own properties and may benefit from being a part of organized stewardship activities.
3.d. Engage with CDF-based land conservancy organizations to build a network that facilitates knowledge and resource sharing for the stewardship of alike ecosystems, while also working to address region-wide need for capacity building and organizational connectivity.

Our overall vision for KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is to manage the landscapes to maximize ecological integrity and community value. Ecological integrity includes restoring ecosystem structure, function, and connectivity to support native biodiversity, while also mitigating climate change-induced risks such as wildfire and flooding. Community value includes the health benefits provided to local communities by protecting and restoring CDF forest ecosystems, such as microclimate cooling during extreme heat and droughts and sustaining local watershed resources, and also preservation of the Indigenous culture and stewardship practices inherently tied to CDF ecosystems. Through this long-term management process, KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest and S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest will also become significant community assets as sites for stewardship education, research, and connecting with nature. Through restoration, monitoring, and engagement, we envision a

replenished connectivity matrix of wetlands, forests, and intertidal habitats that is grounded in relationships, supportive of abundant biodiversity, and resilient to climate change.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Guiding internal documents developed and used for KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest:

1.Caurinus Environmental. 2023. Gardom Pond Vegetation Restoration Plan.

2.Doll, Shauna. 2023. Replenishing KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest: A management and restoration plan.

3.Matthias, L. and Batten, R. 2024. Species at Risk Survey at Kingfisher Forest Nature Reserve.

4.O'Brien, E. 2024. Kingfisher Wildlife Inventory.

5.Rewilding Water and Earth. 2024. Kingfisher Forest Wetland Restoration Project Summary.

6.Yeomans, Sara. 2025. Kingfisher Wetland Restoration: Design Concept.

Guiding internal documents developed and used for S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest:

1.Doll, Shauna. 2021. S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest Restoration Timeline.

2.Doll, Shauna. 2023. S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest Vertebrate Inventory.

3.Doll, Shauna. 2021. S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest Management Plan [DRAFT].

4.Doll, Shauna. 2022. S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest Meadow Planting Plan.

5.Doll, Shauna. 2022. Planting plan and design: Peri-urban meadow restoration in the Coastal Douglas-fir zone.

6.Doll, Shauna. 2024. Meadow Maker Update.

7.Matthias, L. and Batten, R. 2024. Species at Risk Survey and Installation of Artificial Cover Objects for Sharp-tailed Snake Monitoring at Flycatcher Forest Nature Reserve.

8.Matthias, L. 2024. Installation of Salamander Artificial Cover Objects at Flycatcher Forest.

Example management plans referred to for both properties:

1.Capital Regional District. 2014. Brooks Point Regional Park Management Plan.

2.Hopwood, Doug. 2017. Forest Management Plan: District Lot 1127, Cortes Island, BC.

3.Islands Trust Fund. 2013. Vanilla Leaf Land Nature Reserve, Galiano Island: Management Plan.

4.Maslovat, Carrina. 2018. Medicine Beach Nature Sanctuary Management Plan, Pender Island.

5.Walther, Chris. 2010. Ecoforestry Management Plan: Wildwood Forest, Cedar, BC.

Guiding documents referred to for the ecological assessment, monitoring, restoration, and management of both properties:

1.Annschild, Robin. 2022. Building wetlands using aquatic-safe synthetic liners: step-by-step.

2.Cows & Fish Riparian Management Society. 2017. Alberta Lentic Wetland Health Assessment User Manual, Assessment Form, and Inventory Form.

3.Biebighauser, Thomas R. n.d. Wetland Design Form.

4.Biebighauser, Thomas R. n.d. Aquatic-Safe Liner and Wetland Construction.

5.Hennings, Lori. 2016. The impacts of dogs on wildlife and water quality: A literature review.

6.Underhill, Rob. 2018. Methods for Manual Removal of Select Invasive Plant Species.

7.Invasive Species Council of BC. 2019. Factsheet: Scotch Broom (Cytisus scoparius).

8.Invasive Species Council of BC. 2017. Factsheet: English Ivy (Hedera helix).

9.Invasive Species Council of BC. 2019. Factsheet: Himalayan Blackberry (Rubus armeniacus).

10.Mayne Island Conservancy Society. n.d. Hedgerow Farm Wetland Restoration Monitoring Program.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

The Pender Islands Conservancy (Conservancy) is a long-term project partner, as we are co-owners of both S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. As a Pender Islands-based organization, the Conservancy stores a bulk of the materials and supplies needed for our restoration and stewardship activities at both properties. Funding for both properties is shared between the co-owning organizations; however, the Conservancy is responsible for stewarding several more properties on the Pendar Islands. As Raincoast currently does not require stewardship funding beyond these two properties, we aim to take on a greater role in acquiring funding to support and carry out the management and restoration of our shared properties. Raincoast and Conservancy staff all contribute labour to stewarding the properties and collaborate to make decisions regarding property management, monitoring, and community engagement. Through our partnership with the Conservancy, we also work closely with Pender Native Plants to store and supply native planting material for our restoration efforts.

Raincoast's FCP also has a close working relationship with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) and the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) through the ȻENEṈITEL (kwung-uh-nee-tell; 'working together to restore our lands and culture') project. We anticipate continuing to work closely with our partners at WLC and WLTS and meaningfully engage with learning opportunities through the ȻENEṈITEL project to ensure we are taking a relational and culturally aware approach to land stewardship. In addition, through our proposed land stewardship activities, we will look to engage with W̱SÁNEĆ community members via the WLC, WLTS and ȻENEṈITEL to facilitate land stewardship training and leadership opportunities at S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. We have previously, and will continue to, work with the WLC to ensure we always have a cultural monitor present when doing earth-moving restoration work. The WLTS is also currently undertaking an Indigenous-led wetland restoration project, and we will continue to engage with and learn from their project to ensure we are best upholding W̱SÁNEĆ values and knowledge in the conservation management plans for our properties.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

Local Pender Islands residents have already had opportunities to partake in organized stewardship events at both properties, and we will continue to offer these events as we progress with managing and restoring these properties. Locally community stewardship events not only provide pivotal education opportunities to improve local understanding of what habitat conservation is, but they also help mitigate a pervasive lack of capacity in the conservation sector. Community events occurring 3-4 times throughout the year that consist of about 4 hours of work and bring together an average of 12 people have a huge impact on the area of invasive species we are able to successfully remove and the number of native species we are able to plant. In turn, these events also provide skill-building opportunities for locals to steward their own properties.

In addition to community events, we also have existing agreements with select neighbours whose properties share borders with S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. A neighbour of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest is a dedicated steward of the Garry oak meadow, and we will continue to support their stewardship actions by providing resources, materials, and additional labour. Neighbours of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest are avid birders and have contributed bird count data to inform our conservation efforts, and we will continue to draw on their contributions and local expertise to inform our conservation management plans. As our conservation management plans develop, we anticipate creating a more formal community stewards plan in tandem to best support community contributions, while also prioritizing conservation goals.

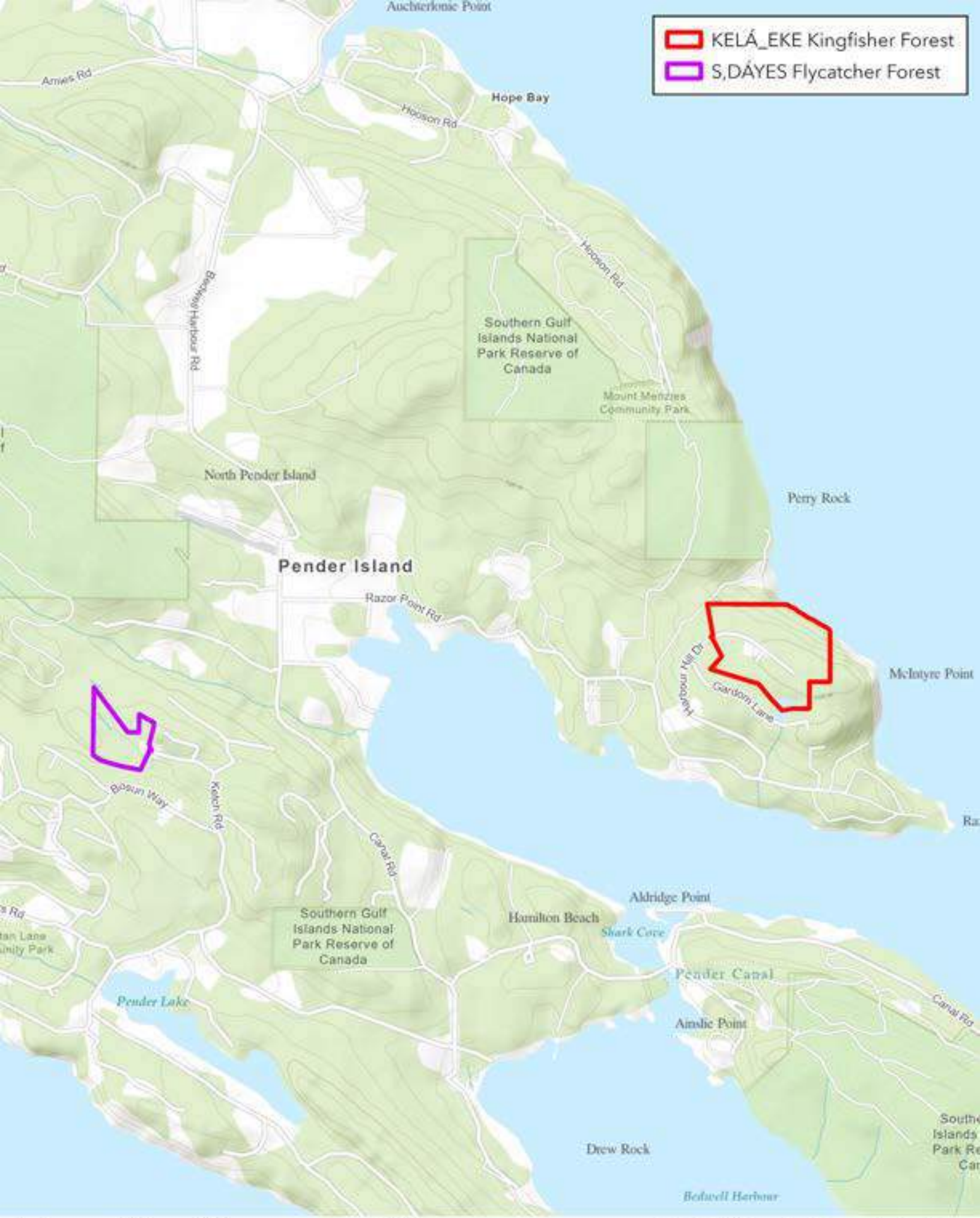
Finally, Raincoast's FCP has an internal partnership with our Salish Sea Emerging Stewards youth education program on the Land Healing Stewards Initiative. Our Land Healing Stewards programming utilizes S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest as learning spaces for underserved and marginalized youth and the local community, particularly through hands-on stewardship activities such as native species planting, invasive species pulling, and species monitoring. As we formalize a community stewards plan, we anticipate that plan becoming complementary to or absorbed by the Land Healing Stewards Initiative to again ensure we are prioritizing conservation goals while acknowledging the value and transformative educational opportunities for youth and community conveyed through local stewardship opportunities.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.



Property/Complex Name:
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
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Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1a. Ecosystem Based	**1.a. Restoration:** remove 3 5x20 m areas (1 area per year) of invasive reed canary grass and canada thistle around Gardom pond using pulling, smothering, and trenching methods. Exclose removal areas with 2 m high fencing to protect from deer browse and replant with at least 12 different species of native grasses, rushes, forbs, shrubs, and deciduous trees.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	300	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1b. Infrastructure Based	**1.b. Restoration:** decommission up to 500 m of gravel road and replace with riparian forest buffer habitat through planting at least 24 different species of native grasses, rushes, forbs, shrubs, and deciduous and coniferous trees. Decommissioning and replanting will occur in incremental phases of up to 1000 m^2. Target is for whole road to be decommissioned by 2029.	Trails decommissioned (km)	0.5	Year 3
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1b. Infrastructure Based	**1.c. Restoration:** rough-and-loose and rewild a minimum of 400 m of human-made trail networks using decompation methods (excavator or manual), adding coarse woody debris, and replanting with at least 12 different species of native understory shrubs and forbs, and coniferous tree species. Target is for major trails decommissioned by 2029.	Trails decommissioned (km)	0.4	Year 3
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	1b. Infrastructure Based	**1.c. Restoration:** rough-and-loose and rewild a minimum of 100 m of human-made trail networks using decompation methods (excavator or manual), adding coarse woody debris, and replanting with at least 12 different species of native understory shrubs and forbs, and coniferous and deciduous tree species. Target is for major trails decommissioned by 2029.	Trails decommissioned (km)	0.1	Year 3
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1a. Ecosystem Based	**1.d. Restoration:** thin up to 3 300 m^2 (approximately 10 m radius) plots (1 plot per year) to reduce heterogeneous single-aged stands of coastal Douglas-fir, and create at least 1 wildlife tree per plot.	Forest thinned (ha)	0.09	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	1a. Ecosystem Based	**1.d. Restoration:** thin up to 1 300 m^2 (approximately 10 m radius) plot to reduce heterogeneous single-aged stands of coastal Douglas-fir, and create at least 1 wildlife tree.	Forest thinned (ha)	0.03	Year 1
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1a. Ecosystem Based	**1.e. Restoration:** build at least 3 nurse logs within 300 m^2 thinning plots (1 nurse log per plot) to create understory nutrient cycling, soil moisture retention, and carbon sequestration which emulate old-growth forest ecosystem characteristics.	Other (specify in notes column)	3	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	1a. Ecosystem Based	**1.e. Restoration:** build at least 1 nurse log within 300 m^2 thinning plot (1 nurse log per plot) to create understory nutrient cycling, soil moisture retention, and carbon sequestration which emulate old-growth forest ecosystem characteristics.	Other (specify in notes column)	1	Year 1
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.a. Monitoring:** record percent (%) vegetation cover, inventory of vegetation, and plot physical characteristics in up to 30 10 m radius (approximately 300 m^2) permanent sampling plots.	Area monitored (ha)	0.9	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.a. Monitoring:** record percent (%) vegetation cover, inventory of vegetation, and plot physical characteristics in up to 10 10 m radius (approximately 300 m^2) permanent sampling plots.	Area monitored (ha)	0.3	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.b. Monitoring:** install up to 8 artificial cover objects (4 at restored wetland and 4 at Gardom Pond) to record the incidence of amphibian and reptile species weekly spring - summer.	Native species inventoried (#)	6	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.b. Monitoring:** Record the incidence of amphibian and reptile species weekly spring - summer under 8 artifial cover objects (4 at wetland for amphibians and 20 throughout the property for sharp tailed snakes)	Native species inventoried (#)	6	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.c. Monitoring:** seasonally monitor bird populations using point counts, walking surveys, and bird boxes seasonally, with specific focus on monitoring for 9 species at risk previously identified.	Native species inventoried (#)	100	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.c. Monitoring:** seasonally monitor bird populations using point counts, walking surveys, and bird boxes seasonally, with specific focus on monitoring for 1 species at risk previously identified.	Native species inventoried (#)	50	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.d. Monitoring:** record percent (%) cover, species survival, and seed-bearing plant fecundity in 10 x 10 m Garry oak meadow spring - summer.	Native species inventoried (#)	12	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.e. Monitoring:** track the progress of removing 4 priority invasive species present on the landscape. In aforementioned restoration areas (1a-e) and vegetation plots (2a), monitor for presence and spread of 4 priority invasive species and 7 additional invasive species that have been recorded on the property.	Invasive species inventoried (#)	11	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	**2.e. Monitoring:** track the progress of removing 4 priority invasive species present on the landscape. In aforementioned restoration areas (1a-e) and vegetation plots (2a), monitor for presence and spread of 4 priority invasive species and 7 additional invasive species that have been recorded on the property.	Invasive species inventoried (#)	11	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	10. Relationship Building	**3.a. Engagement:** work with Indigenous community members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and cultural monitors to incorporate W̱SÁNEĆ values, SḴÁLS (laws, teachings, and beliefs) into our conservation management plans.	Other (specify in notes column)	6	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	10. Relationship Building	**3.a. Engagement:** work with Indigenous community members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and cultural monitors to incorporate W̱SÁNEĆ values, SḴÁLS (laws, teachings, and beliefs) into our conservation management plans.	Other (specify in notes column)	6	Annually

Overview - HCTF Funding

Subtotal:	$	54,000.00
Admin Fee %	11%	
Admin Fee $	$	5,940.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$**	**59,940.00**
Admin Note		

Additional Funding

Additional Funding Required	$	90,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$	60,000.00

KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	3. Awareness	**3.b. Engagement:** hold up to 4 gatherings for W̱SÁNEĆ communities to practice of Indigenous land stewardship and support intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural revitalization on traditional territories.	Events held (#)	4	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	3. Awareness	**3.b. Engagement:** hold up to 4 gatherings for W̱SÁNEĆ communities to practice of Indigenous land stewardship and support intergenerational knowledge sharing and cultural revitalization on traditional territories.	Events held (#)	4	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	3. Awareness	**3.c. Engagement:** hold up to 4 volunteer events for local private land owners and neighbours on S,DÁYES (North Pender Island) to be a part of land stewardship activities such as invasive species pulling and native species planting.	Events held (#)	4	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	3. Awareness	**3.c. Engagement:** hold up to 4 volunteer events for local private land owners and neighbours on S,DÁYES (North Pender Island) to be a part of land stewardship activities such as invasive species pulling and native species planting.	Events held (#)	4	Annually
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	10. Relationship Building	**3.d. Engagement:** at least once per year, collaborate with CDF-based land conservancy organizations on conservation management activities and planning.	New partners involved (#)	3	Annually
S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest	10. Relationship Building	**3.d. Engagement:** at least once per year, collaborate with CDF-based land conservancy organizations on conservation management activities and planning.	New partners involved (#)	3	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

The Ayrie; within a protected areas network

1-963

Application: The Ayrie; within a protected areas network

Andy Blackburn - lands.dca@gmail.com
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000028
Last submitted: Apr 27 2026 09:47 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *The Ayrie; within a protected areas network*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Andy Blackburn
Project Leader Role/Title:	Lands Manager
Email Address:	lands.dca@gmail.com
Work Phone:	250-858-1570
Cell Phone:	250-858-1570
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Denman Conservancy Association
Address:	PO Box 60
City:	Denman Island
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V0R 1T0
Website:	www.denmanconservancy.org

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 38,855.25

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1991
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S0027585
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	13769 8700 BC0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

a). Denman Conservancy Association (DCA), after being founded by community members in 1991, has 35 years' experience in working to protect and steward lands on Denman Island. DCA's mission is 'To engage the Denman Island community in the protection of natural ecosystems on the island, through: Acquiring, managing and stewarding lands; Educating; Enabling nature experiences; Building collaborative relationships; Enhancing human and financial resources to sustain our organization; and Conducting our work/role in the context of global environmental issues.'
b). The annual operating budget is approximately $55,000, with funds coming primarily from memberships and cash donations, active fundraising on Denman Island (biennial Home and Garden Tour, T-shirt sales, annual book-sale), and project grants.
c). With an annual membership of 235 people, the work of DCA is carried out almost entirely by volunteers. In 2008 a part-time Land Manager contract position was created to support the Board of Directors (9 volunteer members), its lands management sub-committee (6 volunteer members), and conservation planning committee (5 volunteer members).

d). Previously Funded Land Management/Stewardship projects include: HCTF Land Stewardship Grant 1-678 'Settlement Lands' (2017-2020), HCTF Land Stewardship Grant 1-733 'Central Denman Conservation Complex' (2020-2023); HCTF Land Stewardship Grant 1-820 'Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2' (2023-2026), National Wetlands Conservation Fund (NWCF 1718 'Enhancement of Degraded Wetlands in Beadnell Headwaters Wetland Complex' 2017-2019); EcoAction grant EA-BC-2009k060 (2010 -2012), 'Landkeepers'; HSP projects 2013HSP6639 – Taylors Checkerspot butterfly Habitat Stewardship work, jointly with BC MoE and GOERT Recovery Implementation Group; private land stewardship for Taylor's Checkerspot; Land Stewards program 1997-99.

In the past 35 years, DCA has undertaken numerous projects aimed at fulfilling its mission, including:
- Land securements: 6 DCA-held conservation areas, contributing to and then managing 4 Islands Trust Conservancy Nature Reserves, holding Conservation Covenants on 16 properties.
- Stewardship & Management: Continued co-management of 4 ITC Nature Reserves, stewardship and conservation projects within 6 DCA conservation areas, annual monitoring & management of private Covenant Areas, assisting private landowners in conservation of endangered species such as Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly and Little brown bat, and other rare flora and fauna.
- Outreach & Education: Workshops, events and educational materials of a wide variety, including Invasive species,

Beavers, Bats, aquatic Invertebrates, Frog Festival, Denman Bird counts, Youth Nature camps, University student collaborations (UVic, BCIT).

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

This project supports stewardship activities across a vital network of protected areas on Denman Island: providing capacity for high-priority planning, sensitive habitat and long-term biodiversity protection, and sustainable human use within these areas of Coastal Douglas-Fir ecosystems. The project includes carrying out essential monitoring and research to inform decision making, ecosystem-based actions to safeguard and enhance native biodiversity, creation of important infrastructure to allow responsible human use of these protected areas, and relationship building and community education and awareness of the importance of these spaces.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

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*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

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*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

157.28

*How many properties are included in this application:

4

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	The Ayrie
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-126-130
Latitude:	49.501703
Longitude:	-124.742872
Individual Property size (Ha):	5.81

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

< 1 year

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift
Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Public access via approx. 1km of low-impact trails (to be developed under this funding application) for walkers and nature appreciation. Private residential lots adjacent to property boundaries on both sides.

Property 2

Property Name:	Raven Woods & Wetlands
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	023 005 424, 023 005 432
Latitude:	49.543369
Longitude:	-124.803602
Individual Property size (Ha):	32.02

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

3.5 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

Conservation land zoning - describe in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

DCA-held (fee simple) protected area managed for conservation. Rezoning application from Forestry to Conservation zoning in process with Islands Trust.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Public access trails through protected area, connecting trail network in adjacent protected areas and Provincial Park.

Property 3

Property Name:	Settlement Lands
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	006 657 656, 006 639 771
Latitude:	49.552534
Longitude:	-124.805212
Individual Property size (Ha):	63.14

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

18 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve
Conservation land zoning - describe in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

DCA-held (fee simple) protected area managed for conservation. Rezoning application from Forestry to Conservation zoning in process with Islands Trust.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Network of low-impact public access trails connecting to other protected areas and Provincial Park.

Property 4

Property Name:	Central Park
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	006 639 411
Latitude:	49.537198
Longitude:	-124.782411
Individual Property size (Ha):	56.31

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

18

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please provide details in the Other text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Large network of public access trails allowing bicycle, dog, and equestrian use, connecting to wider network of protected area and Provincial Park trails.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

Yes

*Provide HCTF project number e.g. 1-123 and briefly describe what activities the funding supported.

HCTF 1-678: Settlement Lands (2017-2020) – Installation of infrastructure & signage, Species at Risk protection (Bats, Butterflies), invasive species control at Settlement Lands protected area.
HCTF 1-733: Central Denman Conservation Complex (2020-2023) – connected network of protected lands stewardship, including infrastructure & signage, invasive species control, fire prevention, education & outreach.
HCTF 1-820: Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2 (2023-2026) – development of infrastructure at Raven Woods & Wetlands, management planning, relationship building and continuation of goals of protected area network.

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The properties form vital components of a Protected Area Network, encompassing almost 200ha of diverse and rare Coastal Douglas-fir ecological communities throughout seven conservation land parcels.
The network features several large perennial wetlands, along with numerous vernal connected waterbodies, the headwaters of the salmonid-bearing Chickadee-Beadnell watershed and connected riparian habitat, rocky meadow bluffs, mature and old-growth Coastal Douglas-fir forest, and regenerating forest following logging during the late 1970's to 90's. Recovering forest in areas across the Complex suggest a forest type Red Listed in climax condition and therefore among the most threatened ecological communities in BC; CDFmm 05 'Western red cedar, Douglas-fir – Kindbergia'.
The properties create a vital continuous network of protected lands throughout central Denman and links the north and south drainages of the island. This mostly uninterrupted network of conservation areas provides connected habitat and refuge for many wildlife species. Federally or Provincially-listed Species at Risk recorded within the network include (but are not limited to): Band-tailed pigeon, Barn owl, Western screech-owl, Barn swallow, Common nighthawk, Blue dasher dragonfly, Western pine elfin butterfly, Western pondhawk dragonfly, Common wood nymph butterfly, Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly, Dun skipper butterfly, Cutthroat trout, Great blue heron, Little brown myotis, Northern red-legged frog, Olive-sided flycatcher, Jagged germanderwort.
The Ayrie, the most recent securement and addition to the protected area network, enhances the diversity of protected ecosystems across the island as it hosts Old-growth Douglas-fir veteran trees as well as a spectrum of other tree ages within the forested property, deciduous and arbutus forest gaps providing deciduous habitats, sun and shelter within the conifers, and varying elevations, slopes and aspects offering important travel, foraging and sheltering opportunities under different climatic conditions. The property has a range of elevations from 64m to 102m above sea level on an otherwise relatively low-lying island, slope variety from flat benches, gentle slopes to steep cliffs and aspects facing both to the east and west. A section of the main Denman ridge on the property is a travel corridor for many wildlife species and the higher elevation provides unique protected perch habitat for a variety of raptors including Turkey vultures, Bald eagles, Peregrine falcons and at least 3 species of hawks. The protected slopes are an important source of clean surface freshwater drainage for the surrounding watersheds,

and the underlying sandstone/conglomerate geology supports both relatively dry forest habitat, as well as moist habitats in depressions on impermeable-surface benches.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

DCA's vision for an extensive network of protected areas, providing uninterrupted refuge for wildlife and connected habitat has been furthered by the 2025 addition of the 5.81ha The Ayrie property. Ongoing stewardship of these lands is critical for repairing damage from logging in the late 1980's, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, and mitigation and adaptation to the increasing dangers of climate change impacts to sensitive and vulnerable ecosystems within Coastal Douglas-fir forests and wetlands on Denman Island. Management activities aim to develop low-impact access into appropriate areas for community recreation and education purposes, whilst maintaining DCA's primary goals of protecting and enhancing sensitive habitat & wildlife:

Goal 1: Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection and sustainable human use within The Ayrie, a newly protected area in the Protected Area Network.

Goal 2: Conduct scientific research and ongoing monitoring of protected areas to further inform management planning and ensure properties are resilient to environmental change, including restoration actions to encourage native species regeneration & mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.

Goal 3: Continue stewardship activities to enhance ecosystems and species at risk across the Protected Area Network, through invasive species control, science-based restoration actions, infrastructure & signage, responsible public access, and community education.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

• Raven Woods & Wetlands Management Plan (Draft), Denman Conservancy Association 2025.
• Raven Woods & Wetlands Baseline Report, Balke 2023
• Raven Woods Ecosystem Health Assessment, Engel 2024.
• Fire Risk of a Protected Forest with an Urban Interface, Gamble 2025.
• Settlement Lands Management Plan, Denman Conservancy Association 2017.
• Baseline Documentation Report for the Settlement Lands, Balke 2017
• Central Park Management Plan 2006; First Revision Denman Conservancy Association 2016
• Cultural Heritage Policy, K'ómoks First Nation 2020.
• Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia 2024-2028, Invasive Species Council of British Columbia 2024.
• International Principles & Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration, Society for Ecological Restoration 2019.
• Community Organizing Toolkit on Ecosystem Restoration, IUCN 2021.
• Management Plan for the Northern Red-legged Frog (Rana aurora) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Management Plan Series, Environment and Climate Change Canada 2017.
• Recovery Strategy for the Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor) in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series, Environment Canada 2016.
• Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) Conservation Strategy, Coastal Douglas Fir Conservation Partnership 2021.
• Protecting the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone & Associated Ecosystems, Islands Trust 2018.
• Silva Ecosystem Assessment, Protected Areas Network Proposal Maps, Hammond 1999.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Islands Trust Conservancy – mapping and GIS support, legal and other technical conservation expertise, Covenant-holder on Settlement Lands; collaboration on restoration plan.

Pesticide Free Committee – collaboration and funding for Invasive Species Workshops and events.

Sitka Foundation – funding for volunteer ecological health monitoring program (Grant pending $6100)

Comox Valley Community Foundation – funding for ongoing water monitoring stations across Protected Area Network (Grant pending)

Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department – coordination of signage, management aids and monitoring for protection against wildfire through extreme fire risk season.

Denman Island Climate Action Network – collaboration around outreach and education regarding climate change impacts and risks (e.g. extreme fire risk season).

Denman Island Residents' Association Parks and Trails Committees – volunteer support (e.g. Trails maintenance), tools/equipment, expertise and knowledge of wildlife and recreational connectivity within the Central Denman Conservation Complex, consultation on management aids and signage needs.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

The protection of all properties that now make up the Protected Area Network has only been possible through 35 years of support by community members, donating time, labour, materials, expertise, and funds. The Denman Island community fundraised $111,000 towards the acquisition of Raven Woods & Wetlands in 2021 and donated countless hours of volunteer time in its acquisition alone.
DCA is a community-run organization, comprised of a volunteer Board, Lands Committee, Conservation Planning Committee (and several other sub-committees) and membership of 235 individuals that take responsibility for the ongoing protection and stewardship of Denman's protected areas. Volunteer work-bees, walks & talks, events, and monitoring activities are regularly attended by DCA members and the wider community and are integral to conservation efforts throughout the island. Collaboration with multiple other community organizations also facilitates conservation and management practices throughout the network.

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Test Property

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 37,005.00
Admin Fee %	5%

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
The Ayrie	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Contract RPBio to carry out Baseline Inventory Report for Protected Area to inform development of a Management Plan and form baseline for future ongoing monitoring.	Professional/consultants hired (#)	1	Year 1
The Ayrie	1b. Infrastructure Based	Design, construction and installation of 2 carved wooden benches at viewpoint locations along public trail in collaboration with land donor	Infrastructure built (#)	2	Year 1
The Ayrie	1b. Infrastructure Based	Design, construction and installation of small wooden information kiosk at trailhead to display info & education materials, including permitted activities & access, & highlighting significant species/ecosystems.	Infrastructure built (#)	1	Year 1
The Ayrie	3. Awareness	Design, printing and installation of educational and information signage & maps for public access trail and info kiosk.	Signs created and installed (#)	5	Year 2
The Ayrie	1a. Ecosystem Based	Invasive species control (English holly, Daphne spurge-laurel, Scotch broom) contract labour. Manual removal/control of instanes of invasive species throughout the property, using hand tools for cutting/pulling, and using GPS to mark and track locations and spread.	Invasive species removed (ha)	5.81	Year 1
The Ayrie	1a. Ecosystem Based	Lands Manager and volunteers carry out fire risk mitigation in high-risk areas; removing/relocating fine fuels from public access trail areas to decrease risk of human-caused fire ignition.	Other (specify in notes column)	1km	Year 1
The Ayrie	1b. Infrastructure Based	Purchase & installation of split rail fence and metal gate at trailhead entrance to allow for pedestrian access only, and emergency vehicles in case of emergency (eg. fire)	Infrastructure built (#)	1	Year 1
The Ayrie	1b. Infrastructure Based	Lands Manager coordinates volunteers to carry out trail development & maintenance, including brush cutting & dirt steps construction.	Trails maintained (km)	1km	Annually
Raven Woods & Wetlands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Invasive species control (English holly, Daphne spurge-laurel, Scotch broom, Reed canary grass) contract labour. Manual removal/control of instances of invasive species throughout the property, using hand tools for cutting/pulling/digging, and using GPS to mark and track locations and spread.	Invasive species removed (ha)	32.02	Annually
Raven Woods & Wetlands	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Lands Manager and volunteers carry out surveys and mapping of mature/old-growth tree stumps, canopy gaps & deer presence to further inform descision-making over potential forest restoration actions, using GPS.	Area assessed (ha)	32.02	Year 1
Raven Woods & Wetlands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Lands Manager and volunteers carry out fire risk mitigation in high-risk areas; removing/relocating fine fuels from public access trail areas to decrease risk of human-caused fire ignition.	Other (specify in notes column)	2km	Year 2
Raven Woods & Wetlands	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Contract SuavAir Aerial Imaging to carry out orthomosaic drone photo imaging of forest stand to determine stand health, informing decision making around potential restoration activities. Imaging to identify areas of unhealthy trees, helping identify potential caused and future threats eg. Laminated root-rot, Swiss needle cast, Bark beetle etc.	Assessments completed (#)	1	Year 1
Raven Woods & Wetlands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Hire professional arborist to fall dead-standing 'danger trees' alongside public access trails.	Other (specify in notes column)	10	Year 2
Raven Woods & Wetlands	10. Relationship Building	Data collected and reasearch undertaken (stump, canopy gaps & deer surveys, orthomosaic imaging, baseline reports,) shared with K'ómoks First Nation following previous discussions around potential collaboration & relationship building	Info-sharing meeting with Stakeholders(#)	1	
Settlement Lands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Invasive species control (English holly, Daphne spurge-laurel, Scotch broom, Reed canary grass) contract labour. Manual removal/control of instances of invasive species throughout the property, using hand tools for cutting/pulling/digging, and using GPS to mark and track locations and spread.	Invasive species removed (ha)	63.14	Annually
Settlement Lands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Lands Manager and volunteers carry out fire risk mitigation in high-risk areas; removing/relocating fine fuels from public access trail areas to decrease risk of human-caused fire ignition.	Other (specify in notes column)	3km	Year 3
Settlement Lands	1a. Ecosystem Based	gHire contractor to cut & chip dense patch of invasive Scotch broom in former log landing area, leaving chipped material on site as organic material for soil building and break up compacted ground in small areas ready for replanting. Chipping to take place prior to seed maturation to avoid further spread/propagation of broom plants.	Restoration projects completed (#)	1	Year 2
Settlement Lands	1a. Ecosystem Based	Plant & cage several small clumps of native tree & shrub species (exact species makeup tbd) in de-compacted areas within former log landing restoration area. Volunteers to monitor and irrigate plantings as necessary.	Restoration projects completed (#)	1	Year 3
Central Park	1a. Ecosystem Based	Invasive species control (English holly, Daphne spurge-laurel, Scotch broom, Reed canary grass) contract labour. Manual removal/control of instances of invasive species throughout the property, using hand tools for cutting/pulling/digging, and using GPS to mark and track locations and spread.	Invasive species removed (ha)	56.31	Annually
Central Park	1a. Ecosystem Based	Lands Manager and volunteers carry out fire risk mitigation in high-risk areas; removing/relocating fine fuels from public access trail areas to decrease risk of human-caused fire ignition.	Other (specify in notes column)	4km	Year 2

Admin Fee %	5%
Admin Fee $	$ 1,850.25
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 38,855.25**
Admin Note	

Additional Funding

Additional Funding Required	$8,500 in pending other grant applications to support these projects
Additional Funding Confirmed	

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Ginn's Conservation Area

1-964

Application: Ginn's Conservation Area

Jackie Ohayon - jackie.ohayon@wsanec.com
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000030
Status: Approved - CGA Signing
Last submitted: Nov 7 2025 02:44 PM (PST)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Ginn's Conservation Area*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Katie Blake
Project Leader Role/Title:	Manager
Email Address:	katie.blake@wsanec.com
Work Phone:	250-217-2718
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society
Address:	800b Stellys Cross Rd
City:	Saanichton
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8M 1J4
Website:	(No response)

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 24,633

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	2021-08-23
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S0075301
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	781454103RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Ginns property is a 23-hectare conservation area on southern Vancouver Island that protects rare and threatened ecosystems within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic zone. By working closely with Habitat Acquisition Trust, local Nations, and community members, WLTS seeks to ensure the long-term ecological well-being and protection of this ecologically unique and vital parcel of land through habitat restoration and stewardship, supporting native biodiversity and Species at Risk and enhancing regional habitat connectivity.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

No

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The Ginns Property is a 23-hectare conservation area on southern Vancouver Island that protects rare and threatened ecosystems within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic zone. By working closely with Habitat Acquisition Trust, local Nations, and community members, WLTS seeks to ensure the long-term ecological well-being and protection of this ecologically unique and vital parcel of land through habitat restoration and stewardship, supporting native biodiversity and Species at Risk and enhancing regional habitat connectivity.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

---

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

---

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

---

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

23.32

*How many properties are included in this application:

1

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Ginns
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	005-503-680
Latitude:	48.501
Longitude:	-123.504
Individual Property size (Ha):	23.32

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

No

*Provide the name of the landowner and describe your relationship with the property e.g. lease, manager, other.

The name of the landowner is Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). The W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society has permission from HAT to engage in stewardship and data collection efforts on the property as part of our cooperative relationship. Please see attached letter of support.

---

*Letter of Support and Management Agreement

If the property is owned by another party the applicant must include a letter from the property owner confirming they support the application and permission to:

1. access the property, and
2. conduct the activities presented in the application and
3. confirmation there is a management agreement in place including the length of time (years) the applicant has been managing the property, OR a copy of the management agreement signed by both parties.

HAT Letter of Support WLTS.pdf

Filename: HAT Letter of Support WLTS.pdf.pdf **Size:** 147.0 kB

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

---

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift
Nature Reserve
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

The Ginns Conservation Area is owned in fee simple by HAT. In addition, there is a conservation covenant registered on title held by AT and the Cowichan Community Land Trust. The conservation covenant was donated under the ecological gifts program.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Ginns Conservation Area contains a single trail, casually used for public access.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The Ginns property lies within one of the few remaining intact regions of coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic zone—the smallest and rarest biogeoclimatic zone in BC, comprising only 0.3% of BC's land base. The CDFmm is both highly threatened and minimally protected, with much of the remaining land base occurring as fragmented, disconnected areas across the region. To underscore the threat that the CDFmm is facing, 98% of the ecological communities within the biogeoclimatic zone are considered at-risk and 80% are privately owned, making conservation efforts especially critical.

The Ginns property, within the CDFmm, represents a 23.32 Ha diverse mosaic of several provincially-recognized 'imperilled' ecosystems at risk, including: Douglas-fir – arbutus; Douglas-fir / dull Oregon-grape; Sitka willow – Pacific willow / skunk cabbage; and red alder / skunk cabbage. This undulating landscape is also interspersed with rocky outcrops that support pockets of open Garry oak meadow and arbutus ecosystems. A small complex of permanent and seasonal shrub wetlands provides diverse habitats and water sources for the variety of species that exist on the Ginns property. This unique combination of ecosystems creates a structurally diverse landscape that is host to a variety of ecologically significant species, including several species at risk. These include the Western screech owl, olive-sided flycatcher, sharp tailed snake, slender popcorn flower, blue-grey taildropper, Dun skipper, white-top aster, tall woolly-heads, and coast microseris.

Due to the fragmented nature of the CDFmm landscape, there is an imperative to protect and steward areas of land that can collectively create a larger network of connected ecosystems. All species, but wide-ranging species in particular—including cougars, bears, bats, birds, and many insects and amphibians found in the region—rely on interconnected ecosystems for their habitat and survival. The Ginns property is directly adjacent to the 922 ha Thetis Lake Regional Park as well as a network of NGO-held conservation covenants. As such, within the fragmented urbanized landscape of the Capital Regional District, the property plays a vital role in the east-west and north-south habitat connectivity of the region. This importance has been identified as a Priority 1 under the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Salish Sea Natural Area Conservation Plan II. The property is also located within the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Priority Place "Southwestern British Columbia."

The Ginns property offers an opportunity to steward and protect one of British Columbia's most imperiled ecological zones. Its protection addresses urgent regional and national priorities by safeguarding red-listed ecosystems, supporting federally listed Species at Risk, and enhancing ecological connectivity across a fragmented landscape. As part of a broader network of protected areas, the property strengthens the resilience of native biodiversity and contributes meaningfully to long-term conservation outcomes in the CDFmm.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Located within W̱SÁNEĆ territory, the Ginns property is an ecologically significant land within British Columbia's most imperiled biogeoclimatic zone. As part of a broader network of protected areas, the property supports rare ecosystems and numerous federally listed Species at Risk. The long-term vision for the Ginns property is to ensure its ecological integrity and permanent protection through legal safeguards, active stewardship, and community engagement.

Primary Management Goals:
• Support habitat restoration and stewardship by managing invasive species, monitoring ecological health, and enhancing native biodiversity.
• Minimize ecological disturbance by limiting public access to designated areas, such as the existing hydro right-of-way.
• Foster W̱SÁNEĆ engagement by providing culturally aligned access.

Desired Long-Term Condition:
The Ginns property is envisioned as a well-connected, legally protected natural area supporting healthy native ecosystems, thriving Species at Risk populations, and long-term ecological integrity within the CDFmm zone.

Objectives for Implementation:
• Implement invasive species control
• Apply habitat assessment and inventory data to guide adaptive management and restoration planning.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

- Conservation Covenant in favor of Habitat Acquisition Trust and Cowichan Community Land Trust.
- Baseline ecological inventory associated with covenant.
- Ecological Gift Certification.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

First Nations Applicant

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

WLTS will work closely with Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT). HAT staff will facilitate orientation to the property's trail network to ensure safe access and will facilitate connections with appropriate RP Bios and birding experts. The Land Conservancy (TLC) and W̱MÍYEŦEN Nature Sanctuary Society will also be involved in project activities by way of relationship building and management coordination meetings.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

The activities proposed include working with W̱SÁNEĆ elders and knowledge holders to inventory culturally significant features on the property. Therefore, we will inherently be working with W̱SÁNEĆ community members. Additionally, due to the physical proximity of the properties, we will be working with HAT, TLC and W̱MÍYEŦEN Nature Sanctuary Society.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

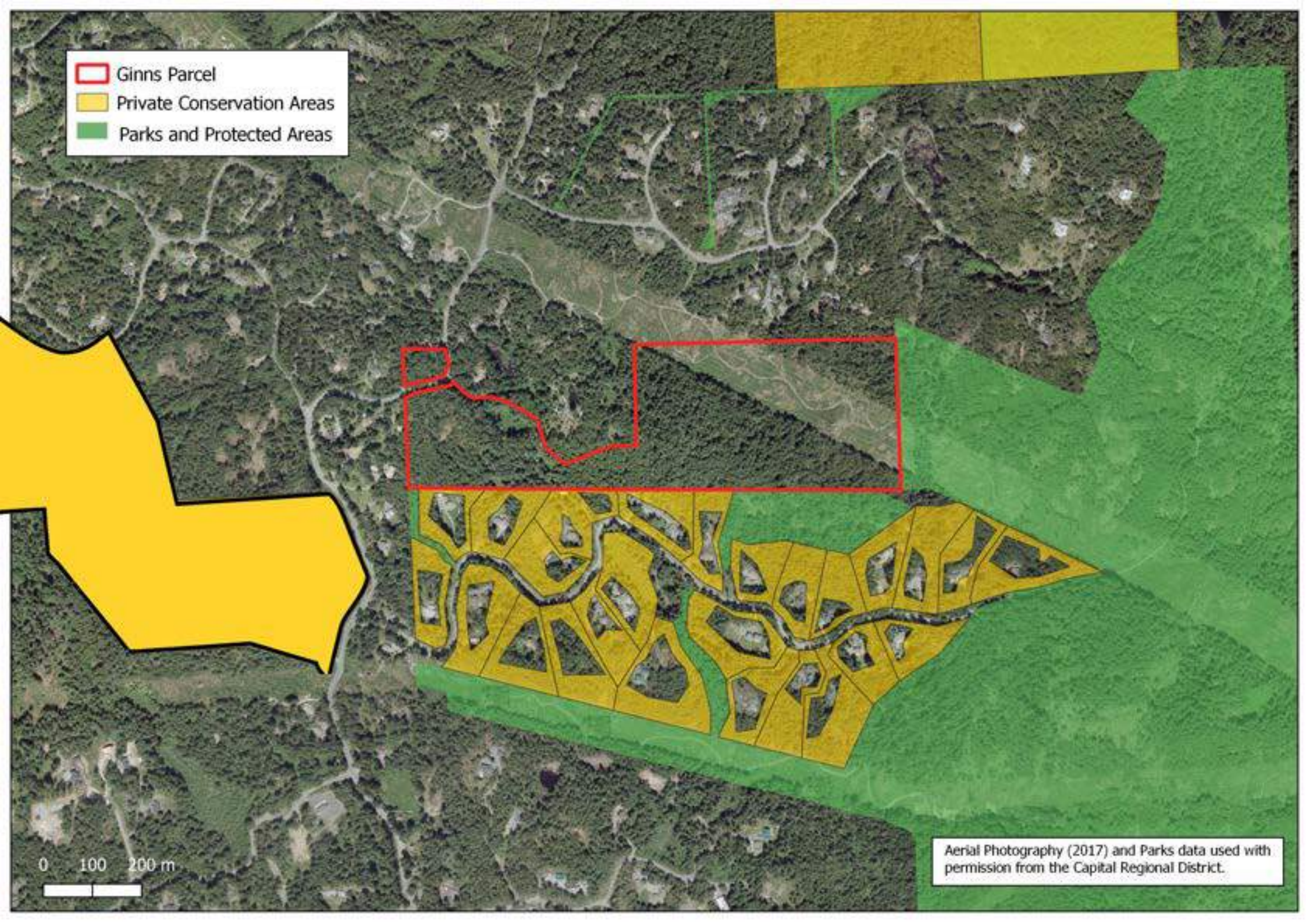
By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

*Recognizing HCTF's Contribution

Please see *HCTFs Communications page* for guidelines and other details on how you should clearly acknowledge HCTF's support.

Responses Selected:

I have read the above guidelines and understand that I will be required to acknowledge HCTF's support of this project, if approved for funding.


Ginns Parcel
Private Conservation Areas
Parks and Protected Areas
0 100 200 m
Aerial Photography (2017) and Parks data used with permission from the Capital Regional District.

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Ginns Conservation Area

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 21,540.00
Admin Fee %	15%
Admin Fee $	$ 3,231.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 24,771.00**
Admin Note	**Admin fees cover organizational overhead and management costs**

Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	No additional funding is needed for the success of this proposal
Additional Funding Confirmed	

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Ginns Conservation Area	1a. Ecosystem Based	Invasive species removal, focused on holly, daphnne laurel and Scotch broom.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	15	Annually
	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Assess habitat for Western Screech Owl and other bird species with RPBio and birding community. W̱SÁNEĆ youth and stewardship staff to accompany for training.	Area assessed (ha)	15	Year 1
	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Inventory property for species and features of cultural importance, including plant and animal foods and medicines, with W̱SÁNEĆ elders and other knowledge-holders. Gathered knowledge will be used, cooperatively with Habitat Acquisition Trust, to inform management planning for the property.	Area assessed (ha)	20	Year 1
	10. Relationship Building	Development of trust-based relationships with Habitat Acquistion Trust (property owner), as well as TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, and W̱MIYEȾEN Nature Sanctuary Society, who own near-by properties. Coordination of property stewardship and management decisions amongst same agencies.	Info-sharing meeting with Stakeholders(#)	3	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Tsartlip Stewardship Department for MÁWUEĆ

1-965

Application: Tsartlip Stewardship Department for MÁWUEĆ

Jon Loeppky - stewardshipprojects@tsartlip.com
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000032
Last submitted: Apr 24 2026 09:22 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Completed - Nov 7 2025

Before beginning your application below, we recommend downloading the Application Worksheet *to prepare your answers and then copy and paste them into the form below.*

Please refer to the Land Stewardship Grant Program Guidelines *for information on eligible applicants, eligible properties, eligible and ineligible activities and expenses, and other project considerations.*

For helpful tips on using the Survey Apply system, please refer to the Survey Apply Application Guide.

All of these documents can be found on the **Land Stewardship** apply page.

Land Stewardship Application Form

Pre-Screening Questions

Is your conservation property(s) within BC?

Yes

What kind of property management do you intend to fund with this grant?

Actively manage

Is this conservation project solely focused on federally managed salmon species?

No

Are you a Regional, Local, Municipal, or Provincial government applicant?

No

Do you own or do you manage the conservation land you are applying for?

Own and manage

Project Title: *Tsartlip Stewardship Department for MÁWUEĆ*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	William Morris
Project Leader Role/Title:	Stewardship Director
Email Address:	stewardship@tsartlip.com
Work Phone:	250-419-2945
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Tsartlip First Nation
Address:	#1 Boat Ramp Road
City:	Brentwood Bay
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8M 1N9
Website:	https://tsartlip.com/

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 34,144

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	N/A
BC Society No. (if applicable):	(No response)
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	(No response)
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	No

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

a.) Tsartlip guardians have been stewarding the land since time immemorial. The Tsartlip Stewardship Department is committed to protecting, restoring, and enhancing the natural and cultural resources within W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation territory. Guided by the values of NÁNÁKILA (stewardship) and ÍY ŚW̱K̲ÁLEȻEN (good health and well-being), the department's mission is to ensure the sustainability of the land, waters, and traditional harvesting areas for future generations.

The department's mission is to uphold the WSÁNEĆ people's responsibility to care for their territory by combining traditional ecological knowledge with modern science. Community engagement is central to the department's approach. Programs involve youth and Elders in land-based learning, restoration projects, and stewardship training. Partnerships with local organizations, schools, and government agencies further support the department's work, fostering shared stewardship and capacity-building.

b.) The stewardship department does not currently receive any centralized funding from Tsartlip's central administration. We rely on grants to cover the expenses associated with the stewardship work we carry out. Funding opportunities like this are essential to support our land stewardship efforts and community initiatives. The restoration work at MÁWUEĆ has an annual budget of $241,500 for FY 2025/26 and $178,500 for FY 2026/27. Funding sources include ECCC EcoAction, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and Peninsula Streams & Shorelines.

Other active funding sources for the stewardship department in general include:

First Nation's National Guadian Network (NGN) grant for two guardians' salaries

Coast Guard contribution agreement for co-developed community response

Coast Guard Coastal Marine Response Teams (CMRT) contribution agreement for Marine Liaison position

Ministry of Transportation (Federal) contribution agreement to monitor vessels on our waters

Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship (Provincial) contribution agreement for cumulative effects study

Capital Regional District (CRD) funding for water quality monitoring from landfill

c.) The Stewardship Department currently has seven employees. In addition, we work closely with Peninsula Streams and Shorelines (PSS) which provides additional project management capacity with one staff member working primarily on restoration work with Tsartlip and additional staff members supporting the volunteer and community engagement days (two to six workers). We also receive approximately 10-15 volunteers (currently 1,100 volunteer hours for 2025) from the public to join in on our weekly/bi-weekly drop-in volunteer restoration sessions.

d.) W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation – Stewardship Department

The Tsartlip Stewardship Department brings deep place-based knowledge, cultural leadership, and hands-on restoration experience. Staff and Tsartlip Guardians have been trained in habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, native plant propagation, and invasive species management. The team also has experience in the integration of WSÁNEĆ Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), ensuring restoration efforts reflect community values, protocols, and traditional restoration practices.

Peninsula Streams & Shorelines (PSS)

PSS is a registered non-profit environmental organization with over 20 years of experience in stream and wetland restoration, invasive species control, community education, and multi-stakeholder project management across southern Vancouver Island. Their staff include Registered Professional Biologists (R.P.Bio), restoration ecologists, and experienced project managers who specialize in collaborative restoration work. PSS has successfully managed numerous complex projects with local governments, First Nations, and funding agencies, delivering measurable ecological outcomes.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

No

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The MÁWUEĆ Restoration Project, led by W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation in partnership with Peninsula Streams & Shorelines, is restoring and protecting the 78-hectare MÁWUEĆ property within the KÉNNES watershed. The project focuses on stream restoration, invasive species control, and native planting to improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and support the recovery of Garry oak meadow, riparian, wetland, and stream ecosystems. Partnerships with local schools, Knowledge Holders, and Elders will help inform the restoration processes, construct traditional medicine gardens, and strengthen community land stewardship for generations to come.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

78

*How many properties are included in this application:

1

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	MÁWUEĆ
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	002-406-772
Latitude:	48.59374
Longitude:	-123.44932
Individual Property size (Ha):	78

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

5 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The public are invited to join in on weekly/biweekly drop-in restoration sessions.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The MÁWUEĆ property supports a rich mix of freshwater, wetland, riparian, and Garry oak meadow ecosystems that provide essential habitat for a wide range of native species. The KÉNNES watershed supports a genetically distinct population of Coastal Cutthroat Trout and a variety of amphibians. The wetlands and riparian zones provide breeding and foraging areas for migratory birds, small mammals, and pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds, while the Garry oak meadows support native flowering plants like camas and chocolate lily that also sustain pollinator species and hold deep importance for food gathering. The property lies within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, one of the most at-risk ecosystems in Canada, and provides critical ecological functions such as floodplain connectivity, water filtration, and habitat refuge.

MÁWUEĆ also holds significance for the W̱SÁNEĆ people as part of a traditional travel route across the Saanich Peninsula. Historically, families would stop at MÁWUEĆ to rest and gather resources as they journeyed between village sites from the west to the east side of the peninsula. The area was known for its abundance of fresh water, edible plants and fish, and safe resting grounds. Today, this work continues through First Nations traditional activities that conserve, restore, and manage for species and habitats, including efforts to enhance traditional foods and medicines such as camas, Nootka rose, stinging nettle, kinnikinnick, and chocolate lily, which are being replanted to restore harvesting areas and strengthen local biodiversity.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

The management goals for the MÁWUEĆ property, aligned with HCTF's priorities for long-term conservation outcomes, are to restore and maintain the ecological integrity of its freshwater, wetland, and Garry oak meadow ecosystems while fostering long-term community stewardship. This includes improving water quality and in-stream habitat complexity for native species such as coastal cutthroat trout, removing invasive plants to allow native vegetation to re-establish, and restoring natural hydrology to enhance floodplain connectivity and groundwater recharge. Restoration efforts will include planting native and traditionally significant species, creating off-channel wetland habitat refuges, and installing bird and bat boxes to support native wildlife. The project will also strengthen relationships through community planting events and partnerships with the ŁÁU, WELN̲EW̲ Tribal School and other local schools to engage students in hands-on restoration and environmental learning. Guidance from Knowledge Keepers and Elders will support the reintroduction of traditional medicines and food plants, ensuring that restoration efforts reflect both traditional and community values and contribute to a healthy, resilient ecosystem.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Metro Vancouver Regional District, & Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver. (2021, August). Best management practices for reed canarygrass in the Metro Vancouver Region (Diamond Head Consulting). https://metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/Documents/reed-canarygrass-best-management-practices.pdf

Ministry of Environment, Ecosystems Branch. (2005). Ecological restoration guidelines for British Columbia. https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/fia/documents/restorationguidelines.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development. (2024, January 8). Riparian management area guidebook. Province of British Columbia. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/silviculture/silvicultural-systems/silviculture-guidebooks/riparian-management-area-guidebook?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Stewardship Centre for British Columbia. (2013). Guidance for restoration activities in riparian areas (Pilot 12). https://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/PDF_docs/sar/GuidanceforRestorationActivitiesinRiparianAreasPilot12-2013.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

First Nations Applicant

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Peninsula Streams and Shorelines (PSS) - project management, labour, and ecological expertise.

W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) - shared knowledge and expertise

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

The public are invited to join weekly (or biweekly during busy periods) volunteer days to help with planting, invasive species removal, and general property maintenance, and are encouraged to take part in volunteer appreciation events. The project has already seen a strong local turnout, with over 1,100 volunteer hours logged so far this year and growing participation from community members, schools, and partner organizations. In October alone, more than 100 students from the ŁÁU, WELN̲EW̲ Tribal School and surrounding schools took part in restoration activities at MÁWUEĆ, contributing to hands-on learning and stewardship training. These partnerships provide ongoing opportunities for youth to engage in land-based learning while building knowledge of SENĆOŦEN plant names and traditional uses, fostering the next generation of conservationists and Guardians who will continue to protect the land and waters. Community workshops and volunteer events further support intergenerational learning and knowledge sharing, guided by input from community members, Knowledge Holders, and Elders who help shape restoration activities and identify traditional medicines for community harvesting. Building on this strong foundation and with support from HTCF, the project will continue to grow community involvement in our conservation efforts.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

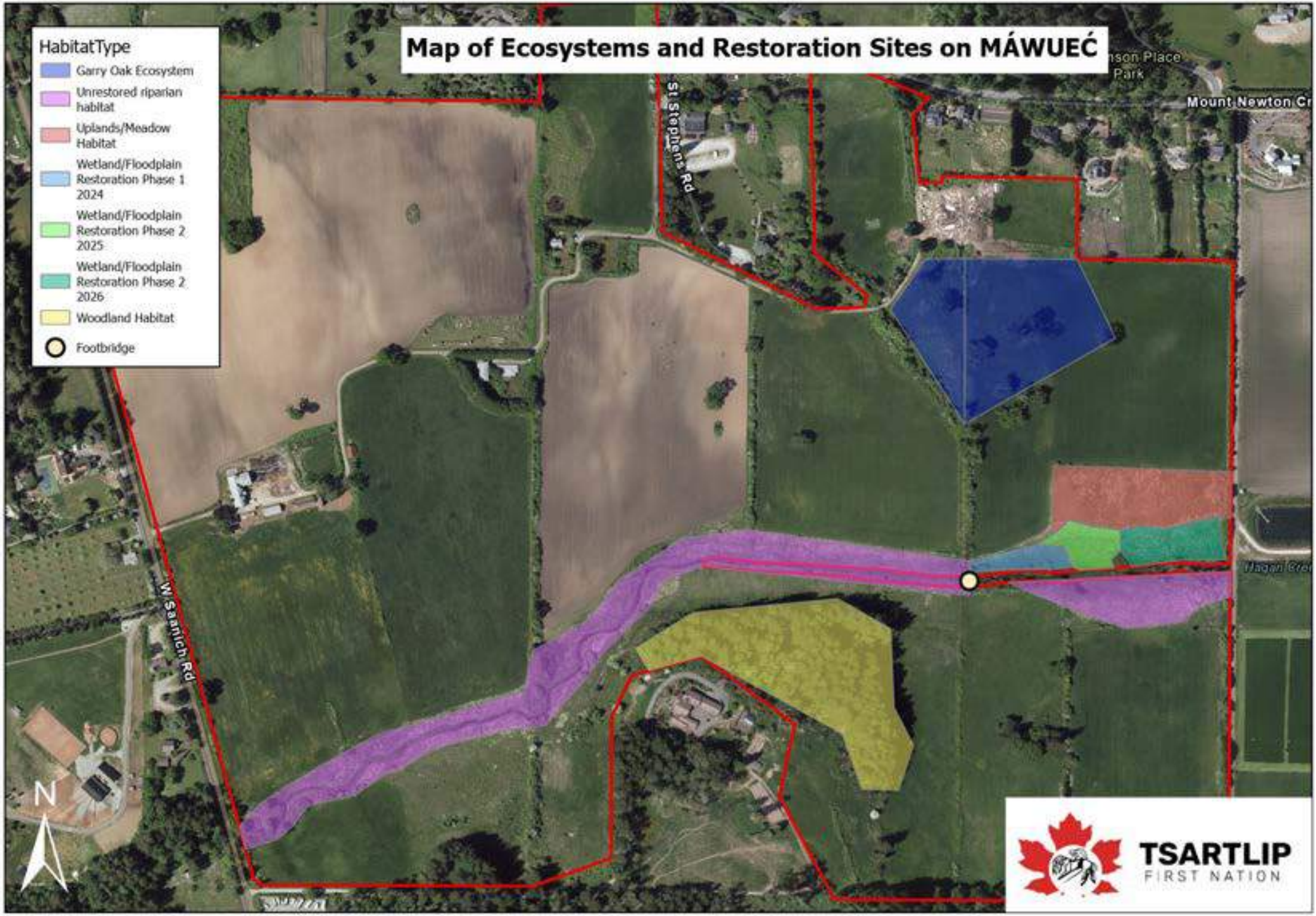
By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

*Recognizing HCTF's Contribution

Please see *HCTFs Communications page* for guidelines and other details on how you should clearly acknowledge HCTF's support.

Responses Selected:

I have read the above guidelines and understand that I will be required to acknowledge HCTF's support of this project, if approved for funding.


Map of Ecosystems and Restoration Sites on MÁWUEĆ
HabitatType
Garry Oak Ecosystem
Unrestored riparian habitat
Uplands/Meadow Habitat
Wetland/Floodplain Restoration Phase 1 2024
Wetland/Floodplain Restoration Phase 2 2025
Wetland/Floodplain Restoration Phase 2 2026
Woodland Habitat
Footbridge
St. Stephens Rd
W Saanich Rd
Mount Newton Cr
N
TSARTLIP
FIRST NATION

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:

MÁWUEĆ

Legend

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive species such as Reed Canary Grass, Himalayan Blackberry, and English Ivy from targeted riparian and wetland areas using excavators, hand tools and manual methods.	Invasive species removed (ha)	1	Year 1
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Plant native riparian, wetland, and culturally significant species to restore vegetation structure, hydrological function, and wildlife habitat. Plantings will be carried out by Tsartlip Guardians, PSS biologists, youth, and community volunteers. Notable species include bigleaf maple and western red cedar along riparian areas, with additional plantings of red-osier dogwood, Nootka rose, Pacific willow, and snowberry. Wetlands will include traditionally significant plants such as camas, stinging nettle, and chocolate lily to support traditional harvesting and habitat restoration.	Native species planted (#)	2,500	Year 1
	2. Species Management	Install Bird and Bat Houses for cavity nesting birds and bats such as Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow and Big Brown Bat, Yuma Myotis, Little Brown Myotis, and Silver-haired Bat.	Nesting boxes installed (#)	20	Year 1
	10. Relationship Building	Host regular public planting events to engage Tsartlip members, local residents, students, and volunteers in hands-on restoration activities. Events will include informal learning opportunities about the importance of native species, water quality, and cultural restoration. Events will be promoted through social media, posters, school newsletters, and the websites of Tsartlip and Peninsula Streams & Shorelines (PSS).	Volunteer events (#)	30	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Design and install interpretive signage at restoration sites that highlights native and traditionally important plants in both SENĆOŦEN and English, with explanations of their traditional uses. Materials will be developed with local Elders and youth and shared through school programming and community events.	Signs created and installed (#)	20	Year 1
	3. Awareness	Host a final community celebration at the MÁWUEĆ site to share project results, recognize volunteers, and reflect on outcomes. Event will include speakers from Tsartlip, PSS, Elders, youth, and funders. Materials such as posters and photo displays will be prepared.	Events held (#)	1	Year 1
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Plant a medicinal plant garden to help restore traditional medicines to the land. Guidance on the species selected will come from Knowledge Keepers and Elders, as well as through engagement with the broader community. Example species include stinging nettle, yarrow, Nootka rose, kinnikinnick, salmonberry, and wild mint, which will be planted to support traditional use, education, and habitat restoration.	Native species planted (#)	500	Year 1
	10. Relationship Building	Engage with ŁÁU, WELNEW Tribal School, and other nearby schools (Stellys, Bayside, and Artemis) to invite students to tour the grounds and participate in hands-on restoration work such as planting, workshops, and site tours.	Partner engagement (#)	4	Year 1
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Build and maintain fence around nursing plants until they have had a chance to be fully established along the riparian land. Middle south end of property.	Fencing installed (km)	1.5	Year 1
	10. Relationship Building	Engage with WSÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society (WLTS) to coordinate on volunteer days, upstream creek management, and knowledge sharing.	New partners involved (#)	1	Year 1
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Enhance in-stream habitat complexity by installing large woody debris and strategically placed rocks to increase channel diversity. Deeper pools will be created to provide cool-water refuge for native trout during the summer months. The project will also establish an off-channel wetland area to provide habitat refuge for native wildlife and enhance overall ecosystem resilience and biodiversity.	Hydrologic structures added / removed (#)	6	Year 1

Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding

Subtotal:	$ 31,040.00
Admin Fee %	10%
Admin Fee $	$ 3,104.00
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 34,144.00**
Admin Note	

Additional Funding

Additional Funding Required	N/A
Additional Funding Confirmed	

	9. Training	Training will take place concurrently with the project activities described above, involving a part-time youth employee from the community who will support implementation while gaining hands-on experience in restoration and stewardship.			

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island

1-966

Application: Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island

Clare Cullen - clare@saltspringconservancy.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000033
Last submitted: Jun 17 2026 01:52 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Clare Cullen
Project Leader Role/Title:	Executive Director
Email Address:	clare@saltspringconservancy.ca
Work Phone:	250-931-4627
Cell Phone:	778-828-2290
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Salt Spring Island Conservancy
Address:	285 Blackburn Road
City:	Salt Spring Island
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8K 2B8
Website:	salspringconservancy.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59,560.48

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	December 19, 1994
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-32945
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	89006 3977 RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

Salt Spring Island Conservancy – Organization Overview

1. Organization Background

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) was established in 1994 and registered as a charitable organization in 1995. Our mission is to protect and enhance Salt Spring Island's natural values through land acquisition, conservation covenants, ecological restoration, and public education. SSIC's vision is:

"Working with landowners, partners and supporters, the Conservancy protects all of Salt Spring's environmentally significant places."

2. Annual Budget and Funding Sources

SSIC operates with an annual budget of approximately $300,000–$450,000 CAD, supported by diverse funding sources:

• 60% private donations from individual and family supporters

• 30% grants from foundations and government programs

• 10% memberships and fundraising events

3. Staff and Volunteers

SSIC's work is supported by a full-time Executive Director, a small team of supporting staff, and seasonal contractors for specific projects. Community volunteers contribute over 3,000 hours annually, assisting with habitat restoration, monitoring, and educational initiatives. Volunteer Wardens play a key role in site stewardship, data collection, and community engagement.

4. Conservation Land Management Experience and Recent Activities

Habitat Protection & Restoration

• Nature Reserves: SSIC manages 9 reserves covering ~650 hectares of ecologically sensitive habitats, including Garry oak ecosystems, wetlands, coastal forests, and riparian zones.

• Conservation Covenants: SSIC works with 96 private landowners to protect ~568 hectares of additional land, providing site-specific stewardship guidance to maintain and enhance ecological values.

• Restoration Projects: Activities include native plantings, invasive species removal, shoreline and wetland restoration, and enhancement of habitats for species at risk.

Species at Risk & Monitoring

• Target species include Western Screech-owl, Common Nighthawk, Northern Red-legged Frog, and other locally vulnerable species.

• Active monitoring and adaptive management practices are used to improve habitat quality and connectivity.

Community Engagement & Capacity Building

• SSIC engages the community through volunteer Wardens, public education programs, and hands-on restoration projects.

• Educational initiatives foster land and water stewardship awareness across the island, building long-term community capacity for conservation.

Science-Based Conservation Approach

• Reserve management and restoration activities are guided by ecological science and adaptive management principles.

• Collaboration with scientific advisors and partner organizations ensures measurable conservation outcomes.

Impact and Measurable Outcomes

• Habitat Protection & Enhancement: Conserved and restored habitats support fish, wildlife, and ecosystem functions.

• Species Recovery: Projects contribute directly to the recovery of species at risk.

• Landscape-Level Stewardship: Conservation efforts on private lands extend ecological protection beyond SSIC-managed reserves.

• Community Involvement: Volunteer and public engagement ensures ongoing stewardship and long-term conservation impact.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

This project will protect and restore critical habitats for species at risk on Salt Spring Island, within the highly endangered Coastal Douglas-fir and Garry Oak ecosystems. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy will undertake habitat restoration, invasive species control, and native plant re-establishment across four nature reserves to enhance ecosystem health and climate resilience. Community volunteers and partners will play a key role in maintaining and monitoring restored areas to support long-term biodiversity recovery.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

105.7

*How many properties are included in this application:

4

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	030-189-926; 003-047-075
Latitude:	48.825335
Longitude:	-123.486502
Individual Property size (Ha):	17.94 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

PID 030-189-926: This was originally PID 003-958-710 (13.19 ha) and was acquired 12 years ago. 8 years ago, this PID underwent a boundary adjustment and became the present PID 030-189-926 (15.6 ha). PID 003-047-075:11 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR) is open to the public at no cost and has public hiking trails, with 2 road access points. Parking is provided at the primary access point, where there are interpretive and directional signs. There is a “Welcome Centre” near the entrance with washrooms, a great room with informational posters/ brochures, and a comfortable seating area. The Centre additionally houses administration offices, a small kitchen and meeting room which is available for use by local groups, and an outdoor picnic area.
Many volunteer and educational programs take place on the BLNR, including for children and their families.
Community groups regularly come on site including birders, walkers/ ramblers.
One trail, closest to the lake, is closed seasonally due to flooding and to prevent disturbance to migratory and ground-nesting birds. Benches are provided throughout the reserve and there are a variety is nest boxes for birds and bats.
Additionally, a native plant nursery is on site, propagating species for out-planting on SSIC reserves.
Dogs, bicycles, motorbikes and horses are not allowed on the reserve due to potential disturbance to wildlife and contamination of the wetlands.

Property 2

Property Name:	Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve (CRNR)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	009-744-479; 003-276-449
Latitude:	48.807308932317255
Longitude:	-123.43004661107005
Individual Property size (Ha):	6.29 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

3 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Creekside is open to the public with a small network of trails, connecting to the adjacent Jarrod' Grove Nature Reserve (not a SSIC property) trails. Dogs are permitted on leash. Creekside's accessibility (via paved road) and central location on the island with easy parking on the road-side makes it popular with school groups, walkers/ hikers, birders, etc.

Property 3

Property Name:	Robert and Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve (MNR)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	006-835-953;006-835-988;006-836-054;006-836-208
Latitude:	48.74037472298359
Longitude:	-123.52265583903029
Individual Property size (Ha):	51.47 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

13 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift
Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The reserve consists of 4 adjoining oceanfront lots, which have water-access only because there is no legal public road.
The lots were donated to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy by the family of long-time owners Robert and Shauna Makaroff. Although the donation agreement allows continued walking access within the reserve, there is no legal public access into the reserve from neighbouring lands. This reserve is therefore only legally accessible by the public from the water at the moment. Easements from adjacent lots allow access for SSIC personnel and utility vehicles to portions of the properties for stewardship work.

Property 4

Property Name:	Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve (AVNR)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	009-019-201
Latitude:	48.78490215434447
Longitude:	-123.46020222254137
Individual Property size (Ha):	30 ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

14 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please provide details in the Other text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

TLC The Land Conservancy of British Columbia;
Trust Fund Board (dba Islands Trust Conservancy)

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

There are popular and well-maintained public trails on the reserve (approx. 1.42 km) with interpretive and directional signage, providing good views, both to the south and the west. Dogs are permitted on-leash.
The reserve is adjacent to Bryant Hill and Peter Arnell Parks (not SSIC properties) which provide a contiguous public trail network.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

Yes

*Provide HCTF project number e.g. 1-123 and briefly describe what activities the funding supported.

Project 1-817 funded stewardship activities on Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. This current application expands the scope to include three additional SSIC properties for land stewardship work.

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

Project ERS24-0000000781 and 1-700.

The SSIC Fish and Wildlife stream project had four objectives:

1. Legally protect ecologically valuable, climate-resilient lands through acquisition and covenants.

2. Conserve land via engagement with private landowners through SSIC's Stewardship Program, including site visits and signed agreements.

3. Restore and enhance wildlife habitats, increasing climate resilience and benefitting multiple native species.

4. Maintain SSIC's native plant nursery and expand stock of native plants suited to changing climate conditions.

All objectives included public outreach to inform local landowners on climate mitigation and adaptation strategies through workshops, presentations, signage, and brochures.

In Year 1 of the HCTF-funded 3-year project, SSIC acquired 6.29 hectares of rare coastal temperate rainforest, including a salmonid-bearing stream (now Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve), funded externally by ECCC and fundraising. Additionally, SSIC finalized a donation of 14.5 hectares adjoining Robert & Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve. The combined Makaroff Reserve now totals 51.5 hectares, supporting four red-listed and one blue-listed plant communities, at least 12 Species at Risk, and extensive marine shoreline.

The current application focuses on objectives 3 and 4, implementing habitat restoration and climate mitigation on four SSIC reserves, including areas acquired with HCTF support. It also builds on previous HCTF project 1-700 (2018–2022), which provided a foundation for wildlife habitat enhancement and climate adaptation. Key outcomes include >600 native trees planted on reserves (2021–2022) and ongoing invasive species control experiments at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve to inform management of Reed Canary Grass and Yellow Flag Iris.

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy's reserves lie in the Coastal Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii var. menziesii) zone, BC's smallest and most at-risk. These lands protect rare forests, wetlands, Garry oak (Quercus garryana) and arbutus (Arbutus menziesii) ecosystems, riparian corridors, and coastal bluffs, providing critical habitat and connectivity for native species.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR) safeguards Coastal Cutthroat Trout (Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii; blue-listed) and Coho Salmon (O. kisutch), 67% of Blackburn Lake's shoreline, wetlands, upland forests, and creeks. It hosts red-listed plant communities (Grand Fir/Mahonia – Abies grandis / Mahonia nervosa; Douglas-fir/Mahonia – Pseudotsuga menziesii / M. nervosa), blue-listed alder/Salmonberry/Horsetail (Alnus rubra / Rubus spectabilis / Equisetum spp.), 110+ bird species including Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum; red-listed), Northern Red-legged Frog (Rana aurora; blue-listed), Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii), and rare invertebrates.

Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve (CRNR) preserves mature riparian rainforest with western redcedar (Thuja plicata), bigleaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), and sword fern (Polystichum munitum), providing habitat for Northern Red-legged Frog, Pacific Sideband Snail (Monadenia fidelis), and cavity-nesting birds such as Hairy Woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus) and Pacific Wren (Troglodytes pacificus).

Makaroff Nature Reserve (MNR) protects old-growth and mature forest with Garry oak and arbutus openings, supporting Western Screech-owl (Megascops kennicottii; threatened), Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor; threatened), amphibians, songbirds, and pollinators. Fallen logs and snags create microhabitats for invertebrates and small mammals.

Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve (AVNR) contains intact Douglas-fir forest and riparian corridors, supporting Northern Red-legged Frog, Barred Owl (Strix varia), Townsend's Big-eared Bat, and songbirds, while linking nearby

conservation lands for wildlife movement and genetic exchange.

Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve (CRNR) preserves mature riparian rainforest with western redcedar (Thuja plicata), bigleaf maple (Acer macrophyllum), and sword fern (Polystichum munitum), providing habitat for Northern Red-legged Frog, Pacific Sideband Snail (Monadenia fidelis), and cavity-nesting birds such as Hairy Woodpecker (Leuconotopicus villosus) and Pacific Wren (Troglodytes pacificus).

Together, these reserves protect 20+ Species at Risk, multiple red- and blue-listed communities, and provide ecosystem services including water filtration, carbon storage, pollination, and climate regulation, maintaining resilient habitats across Salt Spring Island.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

The management goal is to maintain and enhance the ecological integrity, resilience, and biodiversity of Salt Spring Island Conservancy's reserves, addressing threats such as invasive species, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. Through targeted habitat restoration, invasive species management, and climate change mitigation, the reserves will support self-sustaining, connected ecosystems—including wetlands, upland forests, Garry oak (Quercus garryana) and arbutus (Arbutus menziesii) habitats—that sustain healthy populations of native species and Species at Risk. These actions will ensure the long-term ecological function, connectivity, and resilience of Salt Spring Island's critical habitats.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve: 2019-2024 Land Management Plan. February 2019. C. Maslovat (LMPs for BLNR sections); C. Torgrimson (integrated LMP).

Garry Oak Meadow Demonstration Plan. February 2019. R. Underhill.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve Ecosystem Restoration Project. February 2014. T.R. Biebighauser.

BLNR reference document: Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Baseline Report. April 2017. C. Maslovat.

Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve Baseline Report, December 2024, B. Penn; J. Shatford

Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve 2019-2028 Land Management Plan Update 2023, C. Maslovat

Robert and Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve 2013-2018 Land Management Plan, October 2013, C. Maslovat

Robert and Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve 2013-2018 Land Management Plan Update Dec 2023, M.Woodley

Invasive Species Management: SSIC applies up-to-date invasive species management practices on BLNR, utilizing provincial and regional documents, as well as peer-review research. The efficacy of invasive species management strategies is reviewed frequently and modified as required. The following list represents a small selection of resource documents.

Anderson, H. (2012). Invasive Reed Canary Grass (Phalaris arundinacea subsp. arundinacea). Best Management Practices in Ontario. Peterborough: Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC). 2012. Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia. 25pp.

Metro Vancouver and the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (2020). Best management practices for reed canary grass in the Metro Vancouver region. http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/PlanningPublications/ReedCanarygrassBMP.pdf

The Nature Conservancy. 2004. Reed Canary Grass: Control & Management in the Pacific Northwest. https://www.invasive.org/gist/moredocs/phaaru01.pdf

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

SSIC Nature Reserve lands are located on the traditional territory of 13 Indigenous communities. The Conservancy has begun engaging with several of these communities and has built relationships with members of the Stqeeye' Learning Society (https://www.stqeeye.ca/

Together, we aim to develop a community agreement in 2026 to support mutual projects, including volunteer labour.
SSIC has applied to the ECCC Habitat Stewardship Program for funding of approximately $60K per year ($180K total). SSIC will contribute $105K, with an additional $160K in-kind support from the community.
The Land Conservancy and Islands Trust Conservancy will provide land management expertise.
Contracted biologists and ecologists will provide expertise on land and biodiversity stewardship.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

SSIC benefits from a strong volunteer base contributing over 3,000 hours annually. Volunteer wardens are assigned to each reserve to monitor and maintain the properties. The Native Plant Nursery is managed by a contracted ecologist, with labour provided by dedicated nursery volunteers. Additional support comes from members of the Salt Spring Island Trails and Nature Club and Nature Salt Spring, who contribute labour, expertise, and maintenance assistance.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, May, 2024

Blackburn Rd

Fulford-Ganges Rd

Horel Rd

Legend

- Nature Reserve Boundary
- Access
- Parking
- Office, Storage and Equipment Buildings
- Greenhouses
- Trails
- Streams
- Wetlands
- Roads
- Bridge
- Contour, interval 2 metres

N

Salt Spring Island CONSERVANCY

Metres
0 50 100 150 200

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Blackburn Nature Reserve (BLNR); Creekside Rainforest Nature Reserve (CRNR); Andreas Vogt Nature Reserve (AVNR); Robert and Shauna Makaroff Nature Reserve (MNR)

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding		
Subtotal:	$	53,179.00
Admin Fee %	12%	
Admin Fee $	$	6,381.48
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	$	59,560.48
Admin Note		

Additional Funding		
Additional Funding Required	$	450,164.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$	160,225.00

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
BLNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct baseline ecological surveys of aquatic and wetland habitats	Assessments completed (#)	1	Annually
BLNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive plants (Reed Canary Grass, Yellow Flag Iris) along shoreline and inflowing creeks	Invasive species removed (m^3)	50	Annually
BLNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Plant native riparian vegetation (willows, sedges)	Native species planted (#)	10	Annually
BLNR	2. Species Management	Install habitat structures (logs, woody debris) to enhance amphibian breeding sites	Species enhancing features installed (#)	10	Annually
BLNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Monitor water quality, amphibians, and fish populations annually	Area assessed (ha)	4	Annually
BLNR	9. Training	Volunteer-led restoration days	Other (specify in notes column)	4/ year	Annually
CRNR	2. Species Management	Propagate and maintain native plant stock in nursery (western redcedar, bigleaf maple, sword fern, etc)	Other (specify in notes column)	100 plants/year	Annually
CRNR	2. Species Management	Plant native trees and understory species along riparian corridors	Other (specify in notes column)	100	Year 2
CRNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive plants (Himalayan blackberry, English ivy)	Invasive species removed (m^3)	50	Year 2
CRNR	1b. Infrastructure Based	Install wildlife habitat features (brush piles, small wetland seeps)	Species enhancing features installed (#)	10	Year 2
CRNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct annual surveys of amphibians, cavity-nesting birds, and vegetation	Area monitored (ha)	1	Annually
CRNR	9. Training	Engage volunteers in planting and monitoring	Individuals trained (#)	20	Annually
AVNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct vegetation and species surveys to identify priority restoration areas	Area assessed (ha)	17	Annually
AVNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive plants (Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry)	Invasive species removed (m^3)	50	Annually
AVNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Enhance forest structure with snags, brush piles, and understory planting	Restoration projects completed (#)	10	Annually
AVNR	1b. Infrastructure Based	Restore small ephemeral wetlands for amphibian breeding	Restoration projects completed (#)	5	Year 2
AVNR	2. Species Management	Install bat roost boxes and monitor occupancy	Other (specify in notes column)	5 min.	Year 2
AVNR	9. Training	Lead volunteer workdays for habitat enhancement and monitoring	Other (specify in notes column)	4 days	Annually
MNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct surveys of Garry oak and forest openings to prioritize restoration areas	Area assessed (ha)	35	Year 1
MNR	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive plants and non-native grasses	Invasive species removed (m^3)	50	Annually
MNR	2. Species Management	Plant native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees to enhance pollinator corridors	Species enhancing features installed (#)	100	Annually
MNR	2. Species Management	Create and maintain wildlife habitat features (logs, brush piles, nest boxes)	Species enhancing features installed (#)	10	Annually
MNR	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Monitor owls, nighthawks, and other focal species	Area monitored (ha)	35	Annually
MNR	9. Training	Volunteer-led restoration and planting days	Other (specify in notes column)	4	Annually
ALL	10. Relationship Building	Engage with Indigenous community to build relationships and support each others work	Partner engagement (#)	4	Annually
ALL	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Evaluation and reporting	Project evaluation completed (#)	1	Year 3
All	3. Awareness	Signage	Signs created and installed (#)	20	Year 3

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Matson Conservation Area

1-967

Application: Matson Conservation Area

Habitat Acquisition Trust - hatmail@hat.bc.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000034
Last submitted: Apr 7 2026 08:47 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Matson Conservation Area*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Vanessa Brownlee
Project Leader Role/Title:	Habitat Restoration Coordinator
Email Address:	vanessa@hat.bc.ca
Work Phone:	250-995-2428
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Habitat Acquisition Trust
Address:	PO BOX 8552
City:	Victoria
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V8W 3S2
Website:	www.hat.bc.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 60000

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1996
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-361193
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	889626545RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is a regional land trust and registered Canadian charity dedicated to conserving nature on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Since its founding in 1996, HAT has established a respected history of community-driven conservation, helping to protect thousands of hectares of ecologically significant land. Today, our mission is carried out through supporting Indigenous-led land stewardship, habitat restoration, species-at-risk monitoring, and community engagement. We ensure the long-term ecological integrity of ecosystems by utilizing legal conservation mechanisms, such as conservation covenants. HAT's work is rooted in collaboration and inclusion, recognizing that lasting conservation depends on strong relationships with people, place, and the ecosystems that sustain us.

HAT's beginnings stem from the promotion of a Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt in the Sooke Hills region, a rich and ecologically significant area northwest of the City of Victoria. As a result of that effort, HAT successfully protected Ayum Creek and Ayum Estuary—a purchase that became HAT's first acquisition. The Sea-to-Sea Greenbelt is now over 95% protected. Today, HAT directly stewards over 1,600 hectares of natural habitats and participates in the protection of 30 conservation areas through conservation covenants and fee-simple land acquisition. HAT actively stewards these landscapes for their long-term ecological well-being in close relationship with the community. In practice, HAT's stewardship work encompasses ecological restoration, environmental monitoring, wildlife monitoring, and community engagement and education.

HAT has a yearly operating budget of just under $1.1 million to undertake this critical work, of which 80% stems from grants, 12% from donations, and 8% from other funding sources. Much of this funding is from public governmental sources, both provincial and federal. Currently, HAT has 8 permanent full-time staff members, 5 full-time seasonal staff members, and 5 part-time contractors. Collectively, HAT staff hold decades of experience in conservation land management, and organizationally, HAT is well-respected for our stewardship of a variety of conservation areas throughout the Capital Regional District.

HAT also hosts more than 800 active volunteers, demonstrating its strong support system and establishment within the community. At its core, HAT is a volunteer-focused organization and hosts several programs that outreach to people of all ages and abilities. Regular volunteer events occur year-round, bringing the community out to do restoration work on a number of conservation areas in the region, with a focus on supporting Indigenous-led restoration projects. HAT is also the host of several volunteer and outreach programs, including our Good Neighbours to Nature Program, BC Community Bat Program (Southern Vancouver Island), Friends of Oak Haven Park, Friends of Havenwood Park, and the Matson Mattocks.

Over the last 15 years, HAT has been building relationships with members of the W̱SÁNEĆ, SC'IA̓NEW, and lək̓ʷəŋən communities who are undertaking ecological restoration as not only an environmental endeavour, but also as a critical culturally important means of expressing resurgent Indigenous jurisdiction. This has led to HAT keeping trust-based relationships with local nations, Indigenous-led organizations, and Indigenous communities, with the ultimate goal of achieving conservation values through reconciliation.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The Matson Conservation Area (MCA) is a unique urban sanctuary in Lək̓ʷəŋən territory on southern Vancouver Island where Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is stewarding a rare Garry Oak ecosystem to help restore ecological functions and support the ecological health of the region. This project focuses on removing invasive species, restoring native plants and wildlife habitat, and protecting the site's ecological and cultural values. Working closely with the Esquimalt and Songhees communities as well as local volunteers, HAT aims to make MCA not only a model of ecological restoration but also a hub for public learning and community connection. Through volunteer opportunities, educational programming, and interpretive outreach, visitors will gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous cultural importance, local biodiversity, and how healthy ecosystems can exist and thrive within an urban landscape.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

---

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

1-Vancouver Island

---

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

0.984

*How many properties are included in this application:

1

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Matson Conservation Area
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	023-666-897
Latitude:	48.429
Longitude:	-123.395
Individual Property size (Ha):	0.984

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

20 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Ecogift
Conservation land zoning - describe in text box
Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

HAT has fee simple ownership of Matson Conservation Area, and the covenant is held by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Township of Esquimalt. The zoning is Comprehensive Development District (CD-49).

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Portions of Matson Conservation Area are publicly accessible from the Songhees Walkway, which skirts the shoreline between the Victoria Inner Harbour and West Bay Marina. As the site is rocky and elevated, the Matson Conservation Area has public viewing access via a metal stairway and along the Songhees Walkway. The metal stairs are well utilized for recreational exercise, bird watching, and wildlife viewing. The staircase is raised above the ground to reduce disruption of the fragile meadow ecosystem below. To minimize trampling and other human impacts, public access is limited to the established staircase and walkway connecting the stairs to Garret Place.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

Yes

*Provide HCTF project number e.g. 1-123 and briefly describe what activities the funding supported.

Project number 1-819.

Funding for project 1-819 has helped to support HAT's stewardship of the Matson Conservation Area between 2023 and 2026. Stewardship activities funded by HCTF under this grant include: invasive species removal and management using hand-pulling, hand tools, and strategic herbicide use under the advisement of a professional biologist; seed collection and the sowing of native species; planting native species; constructing fencing to mitigate degradation to sensitive ecosystem sites being harmed by human interference and deer browsing; support and leadership of the Matson Mattocks, a community volunteer group that meets weekly to undertake restoration activities at the site; and thorough monitoring activities to track progress, including vegetation surveys, pollinator surveys, rapid site assessments, and photo point monitoring.

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

No

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

Matson Conservation Area (MCA) is the last section of intact Garry Oak Ecosystem–a cultural keystone ecosystem for the lək̓ʷəŋən and other Coast Salish Nations–along the Victoria Harbour front, located within the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (VHMBS). The VHMBS serves as a critical locale for birds migrating along the Pacific flyway, stretching from Mexico to Alaska. Lands such as the MCA provide critical habitat for birds to feed, rest, and breed along their journey, especially within urban environments, which have limited habitat options. Other migrating birds such as the rufous hummingbird, sparrows (golden-crowned, white-crowned, song, Lincoln's, and fox), and purple martin (blue-listed) rely on this habitat. Year-round ecologically significant birds, including Anna's hummingbirds, great blue herons, Northern flickers, bald eagles, owls, corvids, and gulls, also frequent the MCA. Additionally, a North American river otter den cohabitates with these bird species within the MCA.

Several rare and endangered plant communities live within the MCA, including Douglas-fir/Arbutus, Douglas-fir/Alaska onion grass, Garry oak/California brome, Garry oak/Arbutus, and Garry oak/Oceanspray—all of which are provincially listed as S1 or S2 ("imperilled" or "critically imperilled"). Garry oak ecosystems, like those found at MCA, host the highest number of species-at-risk of any ecosystem in the region. Nationally, less than 5% of intact Garry oak ecosystems remain, and they are at a high risk of extirpation. Culturally important species at this site include kwetlal/ḰŁOˌEL/qʷəɬáʔal (Camas) and KEXMIN (Bare-stem desert parsley).

Geographically, this unique parcel of land provides a valuable ecological buffer and oasis of habitat within a fragmented urban landscape. The surrounding area is high-density residential zoning. The current condition of the ecosystems ranges from intact kwetlal meadows habitat to degraded coastal Douglas-fir forest. The site once housed a large residence with extensive European gardens, leading to our current challenge with invasive species, including Scotch broom, English ivy, English hawthorn, English holly, Himalayan blackberry, Daphne laurel, periwinkle, and several non-native grasses, including highly invasive orchard grass and sweet vernal grass.

Critically, MCA holds a great cultural significance, containing two shell middens confirming extensive land use by First Nations. With less than 5% of traditional lək̓ʷəŋən food systems left intact in lək̓ʷəŋən territory, the importance

of this site as an eco-cultural nexus cannot be overstated. The importance of MCA for building care-based relationships between conservation organizations and Indigenous people also makes this site one of particular value and importance in this geography.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Located within the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, the Matson Conservation Area (MCA) represents one of the last intact Garry oak ecosystems along the Victoria Harbour shoreline. As part of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, the site provides critical habitat for resident and migratory species within a heavily urbanized landscape. HAT's long-term vision for MCA is to maintain and restore a resilient, self-sustaining Garry oak ecosystem that supports native biodiversity, cultural values, and community learning in an urban setting. The management goals for MCA are designed to address key conservation threats—including invasive species encroachment, habitat degradation, human disturbance, and the effects of climate change—while ensuring the long-term protection and function of this rare ecological community.

Primary Management Goals:

1. 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 the updated 2026 MCA Restoration Plan and Management Plan (developed with funding support through 2023-2026 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-819).
2. Strengthen management components of Matson Conservation Area collaboratively through consultation and discussion with multiple community partners.
3. Engage directly with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and communities to support culturally informed stewardship and knowledge sharing where capacity allows.

Desired Long-Term Condition: The Matson Conservation Area is envisioned as a thriving Garry oak ecosystem with minimal invasive species presence, healthy native plant and wildlife populations, and continued opportunities for community learning and cultural connection.

Objectives for Implementation:

1.1: Continue to follow best practices and apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival, including Scotch broom, English ivy,

daphne laurel, Himalayan blackberry, bull thistle, creeping buttercup, periwinkle, purple toadflax, orchard grass, bur chervil, and reed canary grass, in focus polygons.

1.2: Continue to install additional native plants where needed, strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species.

1.3: Conduct monitoring of invasive species presence and native plant populations to inform management strategies with support from contracted GOE biologists.

1.4: Continue to monitor, repair, and install deer fencing as needed to protect young native plant species from deer grazing and allow them to establish.

2.1: Update the Matson Land Management Strategy document with recommendations and learnings at the end of this grant's tenure. Consult with contracted GOE biologists for site-specific recommendations, and seek to collaborate with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders where capacity allows, so that their input guides management and restoration decision-making.

2.2: Host one volunteer event at the MCA per year, bringing the community together to undertake invasive species management, share learnings, and connect on the land. Bring experts or knowledge keepers to identify and train volunteers on best practices, to monitor for focus wildlife, or identify high-risk invasive species.

2.3: Build and maintain a relationship with the Matson Mattocks volunteer group by meeting with them to discuss invasive species management strategies, answer questions, and plan future restoration activities that align with HAT’s land management strategy.

2.4: Continue to organize biannual meetings of the Matson Conservation Area Management Advisory Group (MAG).

2.5: Conduct two annual site assessments to manage human impacts from trespassing and camping by cleaning up debris.

3.1 Continue to strengthen relationships with members from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations through 1 annual advisory session and site visit, where capacity allows, as well as community events and opportunities to contribute their expertise on management priorities at Matson Conservation Area.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Matson Property Management Plan (2004)

Matson Baseline Report (2005)

MCA Draft Restoration Plan (2024)

Matson 2023-2024 Field Log (2024)

MCA 2024 Restoration Summary and Recommendations Report (2024)

2025 MAG Minutes (2025)

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Partial Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Matson Mattocks. A neighbourhood volunteer group which provides weekly volunteer labour and stewardship activities.

Township of Esquimalt. The Esquimalt Parks Department retrieves biomass weekly from the MCA. Esquimalt bylaw services help to manage encampments and garbage left at the site. The Township is also a co-covenant holder for the site.

Greater Victoria Green Team. The Green Team partners with HAT by providing volunteers for numerous community-based restoration events.

Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The VHMBS supports community engagement, public awareness, and the importance of MCA to the Sanctuary.

Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. The Nations on whose traditional territory MCA sits collaborate with HAT on cultural and educational community events, annual advisory sessions and site visits as capacity allows.

Ecological Gifts Program. The Program has historically provided limited funding for managing the MCA.

Greater Victoria NatureHood. A local coalition of organizations which provides in-kind support toward stewardship activities undertaken in the VHMBS (including MCA) through community networking and communications.

Province of BC. Through the Community Gaming Grant, the Province provides some support for HAT's land stewardship activities.

Government of Canada. Some of the seasonal field staff who work at MCA are partially funded through the Canada Summer Job program.

Victoria Foundation. The Victoria Foundation hosts a small endowment fund for HAT which is solely dedicated to the stewardship of MCA.

West Bay Residents Association. The group played a significant role in advocating for the creation of Matson Conservation Area and is an active participant of the Matson Advisory Group (MAG).

Compost Education Centre. This nonprofit based in Victoria offers annual workshop/event co-hosted with HAT to

highlight the environmental and cultural importance of Matson and Garry Oak Ecosystems in general.

Nature Conservancy of Canada. The conservancy is a co-covenant holder for the site and monitors the covenant property annually.

Swallows Landing Residents Association. The condominium complex located directly adjacent to the MCA. Many residents are members of the Matson Mattocks. Residents circulate the “Swallows Nest” e-newsletter that serves as a mechanism to communicate messages about the MCA, including any messaging from HAT.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

The Matson Mattocks is a volunteer neighbourhood stewardship group that holds weekly restoration events at the MCA. Each week, community members come together to remove invasive species, create fencing exclusion zones, plant native species, and sow native seeds. Their consistent presence on the land is critical to the continued success of maintaining this property. This dedicated and passionate community group has contributed over 320 hours of stewardship every year for over 10 years. Funding from HCTF would allow us to continue our support of the Matson Mattocks, solidifying their long-term stewardship commitment and good relationship with HAT.

HAT hosts 2-4 community restoration and education events at Matson annually, highlighting the importance of conserving and maintaining the wildlife and habitats present on site. This includes a Migratory Birdwatching Event, Restoration Event, Tour and Workshop, Songhees Nation Youth Camp, and others.

Additionally, West Bay Residents Association, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Swallows Landing Residents, NatureHood, Matson Mattocks, and Songhees Nation members all contribute a significant role in the ongoing management of Matson Conservation Area and as active participants of the Matson Advisory Group (MAG).

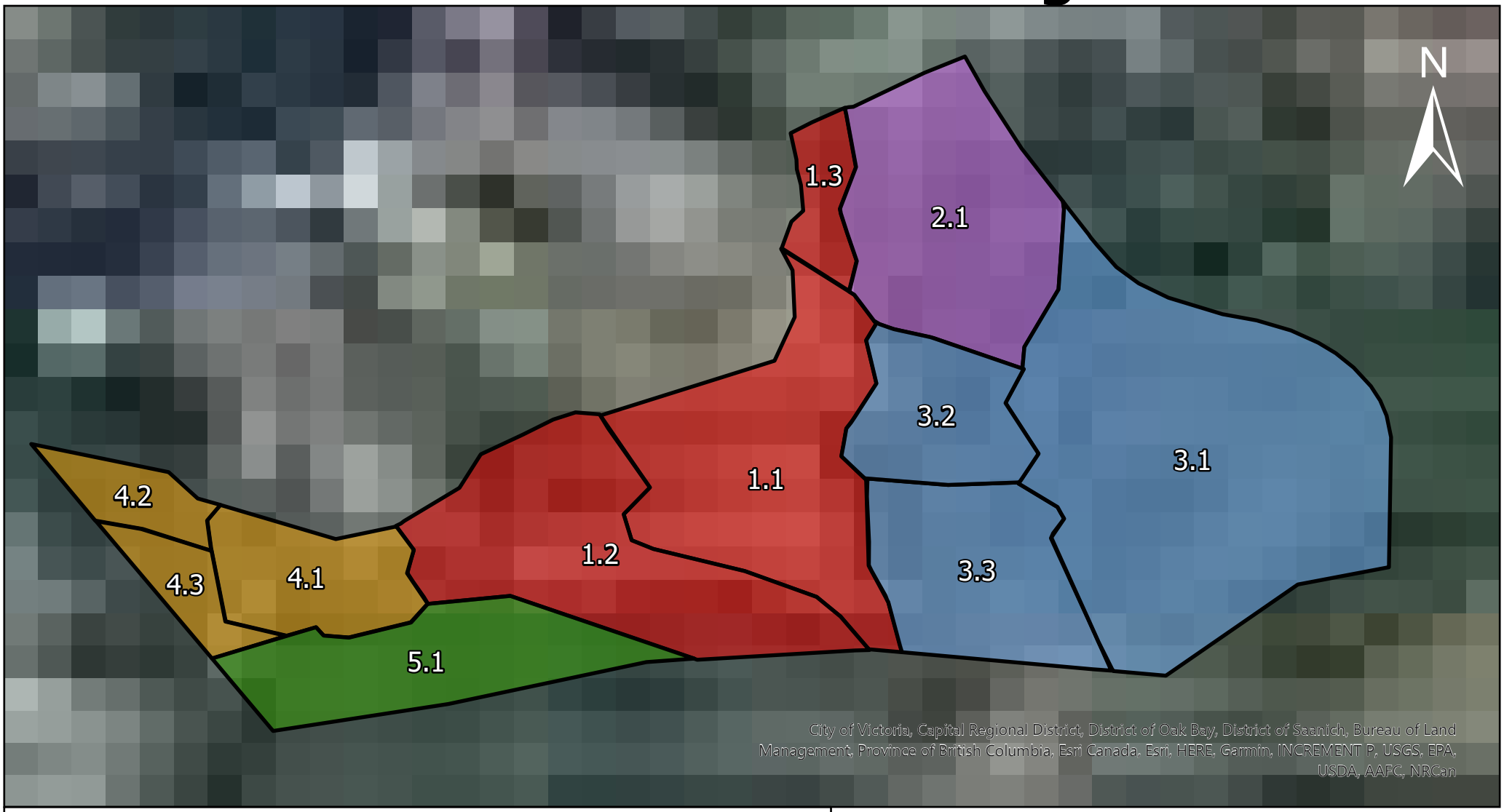
10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

Matson Conservation Area Management Zones



Legend

- Zone #1: Full Sun Meadow/ Rocky Outcrop
- Zone #2: Municipal Water Main Outflow Area
- Zone #3: Dense Shrub Woodland
- Zone #4: Disturbed Slope
- Zone #5: Garry Oak Woodland

0 15 30 60 Meters

HAT

Property/Complex Name:
Matson Conservation Area

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding		
Subtotal:	$	52,173.91
Admin Fee %	15%	
Admin Fee $	$	7,826.09
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	$	**60,000.00**
Admin Note		

Additional Funding		
Additional Funding Required	$	25,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	$	19,500.00

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Continue to follow best practices and apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival, including Scotch broom, English ivy, daphne laurel, Himalayan blackberry, bull thistle, creeping buttercup, periwinkle, purple toadflax, orchard grass, bur chervil, and reed canary grass, in focus polygons.	Invasive species removed (ha)	0.085	Annually
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Continue to install additional native plants where needed, strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species.	Native species planted (#)	300	Annually
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Continue to monitor, repair, and install deer fencing as needed to protect young native plant species from deer grazing and allow them to establish.	Fencing maintained (km)	1	Annually
	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct monitoring of invasive species presence and native plant populations to inform management strategies with support from contracted GOE biologists, and produce one report of results in Year 3.	Assessments completed (#)	1	Annually
	6. Planning & Designation	Update the Matson Land Management Strategy document with recommendations and learnings at the end of this grant's tenure. Consult with contracted GOE biologists for site-specific recommendations, and seek to collaborate with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders where capacity allows, so that their input guides management and restoration decision-making.	Documents/plans updated (#)	1	Year 3
	10. Relationship Building	Host 1 volunteer event at the MCA per year, bringing the community together to undertake invasive species management, share learnings, and connect on the land. Bring experts or knowledge keepers to identify and train volunteers on best practices, to monitor for focus wildlife, or identify high-risk invasive species.	Volunteer events (#)	1	Annually
	10. Relationship Building	Build and main a relationship with the Matson Mattocks volunteer group by meeting with them to discuss invasive species management strategies, answer questions, and plan future restoration activities that align with HATs land management strategy.	Stakeholder meetings held (#)	2	Annually
	10. Relationship Building	Continue to strengthen relationships with members from the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations through 1 annual advisory session and site visit, where capacity allows, as well as community events and opportunities to contribute their expertise on management priorities at Matson Conservation Area.	Stakeholder meetings held (#)	1	Annually
	4. Compliance & Enforcement	Conduct 2 annual site assessments to manage human impacts from trespassing and camping by cleaning up debris.	Ineligible		Annually
	10. Relationship Building	Continue to organize biannual meetings of the Matson Conservation Area Management Advisory Group (MAG).	Stakeholder meetings held (#)	2	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Three Creeks

2-902

Application: Three Creeks

Joanne Neilson - joanne@fraservalleyconservancy.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000022
Last submitted: Mar 27 2026 04:33 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Completed - Nov 7 2025

Before beginning your application below, we recommend downloading the Application Worksheet *to prepare your answers and then copy and paste them into the form below.*

Please refer to the Land Stewardship Grant Program Guidelines *for information on eligible applicants, eligible properties, eligible and ineligible activities and expenses, and other project considerations.*

For helpful tips on using the Survey Apply system, please refer to the Survey Apply Application Guide.

All of these documents can be found on the **Land Stewardship** apply page.

Land Stewardship Application Form

Pre-Screening Questions

Is your conservation property(s) within BC?

Yes

What kind of property management do you intend to fund with this grant?

Actively manage

Is this conservation project solely focused on federally managed salmon species?

No

Are you a Regional, Local, Municipal, or Provincial government applicant?

No

Do you own or do you manage the conservation land you are applying for?

Own and manage

Project Title: *Three Creeks*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Joanne Neilson
Project Leader Role/Title:	Executive Director
Email Address:	joanne@fraservalleyconservancy.ca
Work Phone:	604-625-0066
Cell Phone:	778-808-5349
Field Contact (optional):	Jon Blais

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Fraser Valley Conservancy
Address:	PO Box 2026
City:	Abbotsford
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V2T 3T8
Website:	fraservalleyconservancy.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 59,996

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	November 21st, 1997
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-37626
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	(No response)
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	(No response)

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) protects and enhances nature in the Fraser Valley for future generations. Since 1998, we have been working collaboratively with all communities to protect and steward our shared land. We are the only locally-based land trust in the Fraser Valley.

Our work is based on our guiding principles of:

Land - We respectfully acknowledge we work on the territory of the Stó:lō peoples in the Fraser Valley. We value what the natural world provides – the air, the water, the fields, and the forests of the Fraser Valley.

Community - We recognize the people who stewarded the land before us and continue to work alongside us to care for this valley. We value the beliefs and opinions in our community and the diversity of how we all connect with nature.

Integrity - We incorporate sound science, local ecological knowledge, and the experiences of those who live and work on the land into our work. This is done in a respectful, collaborative, and permitted approach.

Collaboration - We strive to build partnerships with all organizations interested in the protection or stewardship of the Fraser Valley.

Responsibility - We believe every member of our community has a shared responsibility to steward the land.

Future - We ensure our properties are protected in perpetuity. We undertake our programs with commitment to their long-term success.

Currently, we own five conservation properties and hold a conservation covenant on a sixth property. All these properties have habitat for species at risk and/or contain important aquatic features. They are managed to protect and enhance the habitat. We undertake site monitoring, and some require pro-active protection from human-caused impacts. Since 2014, we have used the Canadian Land Trust Standards and Practices to inform how we protect and manage our properties.

We also run programs that encourage everyone, regardless of their level of knowledge or of land ownership, to undertake stewardship actions and nature-based solutions to climate change. Please see our website (www.fraservalleyconservancy.ca) for full details on the wide range of programs we offer.

We have a team of five full-time staff members. They are supported by three contractors and other conservation experts as needed. We also have over 400 registered volunteers who support the implementation of our programs on an as needed basis and a nine-member volunteer Board of Directors.

Our annual budget for 2025 is $540,000. The majority of our funding is in the form of grants from Environment and Climate Change Canada, foundations (such as HCTF), as well as revenue from our social enterprise work and private donations.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

No

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

This project will protect and enhance the biodiversity of three Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) properties in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission, BC. These properties provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and species at risk and they serve as important wildlife refuges within relatively developed areas. Consequently, human activities present the primary threats to their conservation values. This project will support the implementation of our management plans to mitigate the negative impacts of human development. Concurrently, we will inspire residents to take positive conservation actions through community engagement opportunities. And most critically, it will enable us to incorporate First Nations' input and perspective into our management plans and stewardship of these properties.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

2-Lower Mainland

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

4.5 Ha

*How many properties are included in this application:

3

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Three Creeks
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	030-136-016
Latitude:	49.068810
Longitude:	-122.233955
Individual Property size (Ha):	3.27 Ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

12 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Due to the sensitive riparian habitat there is no public access or recreation on the property. There are hiking/mountain biking trails on nearby City of Abbotsford parklands and private lands.

Property 2

Property Name:	Windebank Creek
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	028-779-002
Latitude:	49.133761
Longitude:	-122.324299
Individual Property size (Ha):	0.89 Ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

13 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Due to the sensitive riparian habitat, there is no public access or recreation activities allowed on the property. However, it is in an urban environment and trespassing, including camping, is common.

Property 3

Property Name:	Ryder Creek
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	005-033-586
Latitude:	49.081915
Longitude:	-121.882949
Individual Property size (Ha):	0.52 Ha

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

14 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Nature Reserve
Section 219, conservation covenant – list covenant holder in text box

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Conservation Covenant held by Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD)

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The property is accessible from Auchenway Road. Due to the slope failure risk and sensitive riparian habitat, no public access or recreation activities are allowed on the property. This is a rural location without any established recreational trails in the immediate area. Private property parcels exists to the east and west.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

Yes

*Provide HCTF project number e.g. 1-123 and briefly describe what activities the funding supported.

2-605 Windebank Creek was funded by HCTF from 2017 to 2020 to implement the 2016 management plan recommendations. This included invasive plant removal, planting native species, enhancing fish habitat, and increasing public involvement. Since this time, the level of trespassing and unauthorized camps on the property has continued to increase. This has created a management challenge with repeated damage to the riparian habitat at this site.

2-764 Ryder Creek is currently funded by HCTF (2023-2026). Our goals with this funding were to understand and report on the current conditions, use this baseline data to create a management plan to guide site stewardship, and to initiate habitat improvement work on the site. The baseline and management documents have been completed (attached) and the top stewardship priority of invasive plant control has been initiated at this site.

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

CAP-110 “Creating an Indigenous-led conservation initiative for a mountain at risk in S’ólh Téméxw” (2024-2026) is currently funded by HCTF. Through this project we have created a draft Indigenous Engagement Policy (currently being reviewed by the FVC board of directors and Fraser Valley First Nations). This is an integral foundational piece that we needed to authentically engage with First Nations in our management plans and stewardship of these properties going forward (part of this proposal). It will also enable us to create to partnership agreements with the Nations whose territory we hold land within (also part of this proposal).

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The properties all protect important riparian habitats and wildlife corridors. They are located within the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) Biogeoclimatic Zone and support native vegetation such as western hemlock, western redcedar, bigleaf maple, and biodiverse understory communities.
Two of the three properties support small salmon spawning streams, while the third contains sensitive headwaters and springs that feed into a highly productive salmon spawning creek. Their riparian zones play a critical role in maintaining aquatic ecosystem health by buffering against neighboring disturbances.
The Three Creeks property provides valuable habitat for species at risk, including Red-legged Frogs, Mountain Beaver, Pacific Water Shrew, and Oregon Forestsnail. Ryder Creek provides suitable habitat for the at-risk Oregon Forestsnail and Red-legged Frogs.
All three properties function as essential ecological corridors that enhance landscape connectivity in an increasingly fragmented environment. Three Creeks also serves as an important refuge habitat and has been identified as a habitat hub protected from development of the surrounding mountain landscape, as outlined in the City of Abbotsford's Official Community Plan. The properties enable movement and foraging opportunities for species ranging from large mammals (black bear, deer, cougar, bobcat) to small home-range species (porcupine, squirrel, mice, shrew), resourceful raptors, several amphibian species, countless invertebrates, and large flocks of migrating songbirds. All three properties are connected to park or Crown land on at least one side, with Ryder and Three Creeks having connections both upslope and downslope.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

The overarching management goal for these properties is to preserve and protect their ecological integrity and natural values, for both the aquatic and terrestrial habitats, in perpetuity.
This proposal will support key objectives and activities (outlined in the Budget Spreadsheet) that address the most pressing conservation threats and concerns identified in the respective management plans. While the scope of activities varies by site and duration of stewardship, the following activities are consistent across all three properties:
Implement site-specific invasive species management plans to mitigate the threat of invasive plants.
Develop and apply site-specific monitoring plans to track habitat health and emerging threats.
Maintain property conditions to mitigate the impact of human disturbance on sensitive ecosystems.
Strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities, ensuring their perspectives guide stewardship practices.
Engage local residents and volunteers in conservation activities to promote long-term community stewardship.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Three Creeks – Three Creeks Baseline Report 2015, Three Creeks Management Plan 2nd Edition 2025 (attached), Three Creeks Invasive Species Management Plan 2025 V1.2 (attached)

Windebank Creek – Windebank Management Plan 2016 (2nd Edition is an activity included in this proposal)

Ryder Creek – Ryder Creek Baseline Documentation Report 2025 (attached), Ryder Creek Management Plan 2025 (attached)

Fraser Valley Conservancy Indigenous Engagement Policy 2025 Draft (pending review)

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Three Creeks:
Semath (Sumas) First Nation (SFN) - Advising on Management Plan, sharing knowledge and relationship building
City of Abbotsford - Staff expertise and recommendations
Abbotsford Mission Nature Club (AMNC) - Expert volunteer support

Windebank Creek:
City of Mission - Staff advising and garbage disposal
Mission Environmental Stewardship Society (MESS) - Coordinating cleanup volunteers
Mission Community Services Society (MCSS) - Operating homeless shelter in the neighbourhood, providing outreach and cleanup support
Abbotsford Mission Nature Club (AMNC) - Expert volunteer support

Ryder Creek:
Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) - Staff expertise
People of the River Referrals Office - Advising on Management Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada and community grants - Matching funding sources

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

Three Creeks – The FVC has a community engagement plan for the immediate neighbours of this property. We also encourage volunteers from the broader community to participate in our planned activities on this property.

Windebank Creek – Mission Community Services Society regularly helps with cleanups and with notifying trespassers about the conservation nature of the property. If we are successful at addressing the trespassing and associated safety concerns on this property through this proposal, we will encourage volunteers from the broader community to participate in our activities on this property.

Ryder Creek - The two property neighbours are aware the property is owned and managed by the FVC as conservation land. We will continue to be engage them as its management plan is implemented. Due to the remote rural of this property, it is not conducive to community events.

Location of the Three Properties in the Fraser Valley

FRASER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

0 5 10 km

Jon Blais, PAg.
Habitat Enhancement Coordinator
October 7, 2025

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Three Creeks

Legend

Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding

Subtotal:	$ 53,568.00
Admin Fee %	12%
Admin Fee $	$ 6,428.16
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 59,996.16**
Admin Note	**12% admin fee on project costs. Covers office overhead, insurance, bookeeping, reporting, etc.**

Additional Funding

Additional Funding Required	$ 55,000.00
Additional Funding Confirmed	pending

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Windebank and Ryder Creeks	6. Planning & Designation	Threat Mitigation Update Windebank Creek Management Plan and associated documents to address threats not included in original plan including tresspassing, camps and associated impacts to the riparian area.	Documents/plans updated (#)	1	Year 1
Windebank and Ryder Creeks	6. Planning & Designation	Threat Mitigation Using the current Three Creeks Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) as a template, complete ISMP for Windebank Creek and Ryder Creek properties.	Documents created (#)	2	Year 1
Windebank and Ryder Creeks	6. Planning & Designation	Threat Mitigation Create monitoring plans for Ryder and Windebank Creek properties (based on the template created for Three Creeks in 2025) to monitor the biodiversity and the negitive impacts of urbanization. These monitoring plans will inform what species occurance data is collected.	Documents created (#)	2	Year 2
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	1a. Ecosystem Based	Threat Mitigation and Maintenance Following the Invasive Species Management Plans (ISMP) for the properties, remove invasive plant species including Himalyan blackberry, English ivy, Japanese knotweed, bindweed (morning glory), yellow archangel (Lamium). All properties will be treated a minimum of three sessions per year with areas treated outlined in the ISMP maps.	Invasive species removed (ha)	4.48	Annually
Windebank Creek	1a. Ecosystem Based	Threat Mitigation and Maintenance Infilling riparian areas that have been damaged by invasive species removal or human activity with native plants. Consider additional placement of rock and large wood in newly planted areas to prevent clearing for camps.	Native species planted (#)	400	Annually
Windebank Creek	1b. Infrastructure Based	Theat Mitigation and Maintenance Ongoing monitoring and repair of fencing to reduce the threat of tresspassing into the riparian zone at the Windebank Creek property.	Fencing maintained (km)	1.2	Annually
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	1b. Infrastructure Based	Threat Mitigation and Maintenance Ensure there is adequate, clear, signage to reduce and enforce the threat of tresspassing at all 3 sites.	Signs maintained (#)	12	Annually
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	1b. Infrastructure Based	Threat Mitigation and Maintenance Remove garbage and other debris from riparian areas and sensitive ecosystems on the properties.	Illegal dumping cleaned up (#)	8	Annually
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	10. Relationship Building	Indigenous Engagement Communicate with all Nations whose territory overlaps with the properties to determine their level of engagement.	New partners involved (#)	6	Year 3
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	10. Relationship Building	Indigenous Engagement Seek input from interested First Nations on our management plans to see if they align with their cultural and land rights.	Stakeholder meetings held (#)	3	Year 3
Three, Windebank, and Ryder Creeks	10. Relationship Building	Indigenous Engagement Establish partnership agreements with interested Nations for the three FVC properties.	Other (specify in notes column)	3	Year 3
Three and Windebank Creeks	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Stewardship Collect species occurance data for the properties as recommend in the respective monitoring plans. This may include spawner surveys, bird counts, amphibian surveys, gastropod surveys and wildlife camera traps. This information will be gathered during "walk and talk" type tours on the properties where participants learn about protecting the natural values of the properties while also collecting species data using existing protocols and i-Naturalist.	Assessments completed (#)	12	Year 3

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program

2-903

Application: Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program

Emily Hadary - info@earthwisesociety.bc.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000027
Last submitted: May 8 2026 03:27 PM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Project Title: *Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Patricia Fleming
Project Leader Role/Title:	Executive Director
Email Address:	pfleming@earthwisesociety.bc.ca
Work Phone:	604-946-9828
Cell Phone:	(No response)
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Earthwise Society
Address:	PO Box 18022
City:	Delta
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V4L 2M4
Website:	www.earthwisesociety.bc.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 48000

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1982
BC Society No. (if applicable):	017153
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	122648520RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

History and Mission:

Earthwise Society is a non-profit, community-based charity that has been a leader in sustainability education and stewardship in British Columbia for over 40 years. Our mandate is to cultivate sustainable communities through stewardship, education, and action. We empower individuals, families, and groups to make choices that contribute to the long-term health of our environment. Our programs build upon a stewardship ethic that actively involves community volunteers in program delivery, and target the protection of urban and rural habitat through education, stewardship, climate change adaptation, and regenerative agriculture. Our approach is based on the belief that individual choices do matter and that by working together with others in the community, we can create a sustainable future.

Earthwise Society operates programs at two sites. The Earthwise Garden and Farm in South Delta demonstrates ecological land use practices in an urban context. The 58 acre Agassiz site along the Miami River in the eastern Fraser Valley, was donated to Earthwise Society in 2015. Today, the site encompasses restored wetlands, riparian habitats, and pollinator meadows within the context of a small-scale working farm. Since acquiring the Agassiz property, Earthwise has established relationships with local and regional partners to restore and protect sensitive wetland and riparian ecosystems on the site and to raise public awareness about the importance of habitat conservation.

Experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities:

Earthwise Society has extensive experience in conservation land management and ecological restoration. Working in partnerships with organizations such as the Fraser Valley Conservancy and the Miami River Streamkeepers, we initiated the implementation of a long-term conservation strategy for the site’s sensitive habitats from 2018 - 2020. This included a base-line riparian habitat assessment followed by enhancement of riparian habitat along the Miami River along with in-stream work to improve habitat value for salmonids and other species, the development of pollinator meadows, and restoration of a two-hectare wetland.

The implementation phase was followed by the Habitat Stewardship Initiative, with funding from HCTF, a three-year comprehensive community engagement, education, and stewardship project that helped raise community awareness about the habitat restoration projects at our site and engaged the commitment of individuals to participate in ongoing management activities. Project activities included:

-Development of 2.5 km trail system and interpretive signage to help site visitors understand the importance of ecosystem conservation initiatives
-Invasive species control (reed canary grass, Himalayan balsam, blackberry)-
-Planting native shrubs and trees
-Conducting species counts for amphibians, aquatic species, and birds, including
Monthly bird counts conducted in partnership with the Miami River Streamkeepers, contributing to long-term data on avian biodiversity and ecosystem health
-Amphibian egg mass surveys - staff led with volunteers (a citizen science project)
-Bi-annual monitoring of aquatic species targeting endangered Salish Sucker with Pearson Ecological
-Created a Volunteer Stewardship Committee to lead weekly conservation tasks on-site
-Hosted a series of community educational workshops about habitat stewardship

Our work at Earthwise Agassiz reflects proven capacity to plan, implement, and sustain complex conservation initiatives. Our management approach emphasizes the integration of community engagement and conservation, with a strong focus on education and long-term stewardship. Our work has combined science-based land management with hands-on community stewardship, resulting in measurable ecological outcomes and long-term restoration success. As a result, we have established Earthwise Agassiz as a regional destination educational resource on sustainable land use and attracted increasing numbers of visitors each year for self-guided tours, school programs, and community events. As part of this process, we have increasingly realized the need for ongoing habitat management to ensure the long term establishment of the ecological restoration projects at our site.

Annual Budget and Funding Sources:

Earthwise Society operates with an average annual budget of approximately $400,000. Of this, approximately 65 - 75% is funded by grants, from a combination of government and foundations. This is supplemented by earned income, including revenue from farming and fee for service educational programs 15-25%, and private donations and fundraising (5-10%) We have also received in-kind support. We also receive in-kind support from project partners, conservatively valued at an estimated $20,000 annually.

Staff and Volunteers:

Earthwise Society employs 6-12 full time and part-time staff. Many of these are seasonal and temporary positions, including summer students and interns. Our year round staff includes our Executive Director, Operations Coordinators at both the Delta and Agassiz sites, our Communications Coordinator, and 2 part time specialists. Seasonal employment includes educational program coordinators, habitat management, and horticulturists. We

work closely with an active volunteer base of over 100 community members (Delta and Agassiz), including students, local residents, and retirees, who contribute to stewardship activities, farming and horticulture work, and community programming. At the Agassiz site, our volunteer team assists with habitat management and farming initiatives.

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

No

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

The Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program will ensure long term establishment of
critical wetland and riparian habitats on a 58-acre conservation site in BC's eastern Fraser Valley. Building on past restoration efforts, the project will improve ecosystem health through invasive species control, native plant establishment, and habitat monitoring to support species at risk. The site integrates restored habitat with a working organic farm, demonstrating how conservation and sustainable land use can coexist.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

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*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

---

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

2-Lower Mainland

---

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

23

*How many properties are included in this application:

1

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Earthwise Agassiz
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	013-161-008
Latitude:	49.27329
Longitude:	-121.79325
Individual Property size (Ha):	23

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

10 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

Earthwise Agassiz is owned and operated by Earthwise Society, a registered charity with a mandate for environmental education and sustainable land use. As such, the designated purpose of this property is to demonstrate ecological land use and habitat conservation and to serve as a regional destination learning resource for environmental education.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

The Earthwise Agassiz site is open to the public and supports low-impact, passive recreational uses that align with its conservation goals. Visitors access a 2.5 km loop trail that meanders through restored wetlands, riparian areas, pollinator meadows, and farmland. Activities include walking, nature observation, birdwatching, and exploring demonstration gardens and organic farm areas. Interpretive signage, boardwalks, and viewing platforms enhance the visitor experience while also directing use in ways that protect sensitive habitat. Recreation on-site is purposefully designed to be educational and stewardship-oriented, helping to raise awareness about local ecosystems, species at risk, and habitat restoration efforts. The site does not support high-impact or motorized recreation, and public access is managed to ensure ongoing protection of ecological values.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

Project name: Earthwise Agassiz Habitat Stewardship Initiative. Project #: CAT 23-24 609

This project is a continuation of work initiated through our first HCTF-funded Habitat Stewardship Initiative, which focused on the implementation of a long-term conservation strategy for the Earthwise Agassiz site. That project supported extensive habitat restoration, including riparian enhancement along the Miami River, wetland restoration, and pollinator meadow development, as well as community engagement and stewardship activities. The current proposal builds on these outcomes by maintaining and enhancing the restored habitats established under the initial funding, ensuring the long-term success and ecological integrity of the site.

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

The Earthwise Agassiz site is a 58-acre conservation property located along the Miami River in Agassiz, BC, within the Eastern Fraser Valley. This property contains a mosaic of ecologically significant habitats including riparian zones, restored wetlands, woodlands including remnant old growth cedar, and native pollinator meadows, alongside a demonstration regenerative agriculture farm. These diverse ecosystems are ecologically valuable for their role in supporting regional biodiversity and sustaining habitat for a broad range of fish and wildlife species, some of which are at risk or declining in the region.

The Earthwise Agassiz site includes several important ecosystems, notably riparian habitat, wetlands, woodlands, and native meadow ecosystems. These are increasingly rare and fragmented across the Lower Mainland due to agricultural and urban development and other human activities. These ecosystems are especially threatened because they are often found in the flat, fertile areas preferred for human settlement, and because so much of this land has already been altered or lost, even small patches of intact habitat are now critically important for protecting biodiversity. The riparian and wetland habitats are of particular significance as they support not only a wide range of species but also critical ecological functions like nutrient cycling, water filtration, flood mitigation, and temperature regulation for aquatic species. Pollinator meadows represent a restoration of formerly degraded fields, now supporting native herbaceous vegetation that contributes to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.

The site supports a rich array of biodiversity, and provides habitat for several species of conservation concern. These include the Salish Sucker, a federally listed endangered fish species; and native Sticklebacks, which inhabit freshwater systems across the site. Seasonal habitat is also provided for salmon, which benefit from recent restoration work and shaded riparian zones along the Miami River. Observed avian species include several species of conservation concern including Barn Swallow, Vaux's Swift, and Hammond's Flycatcher. Other at risk species of interest include Western Bumblebee, Pacific Water Shrew, and Oregon Spotted Frog.

The diverse restored and natural ecosystems on the site provide valuable habitat for many kinds of native wildlife including:

-Amphibians, including red legged frog, Pacific chorus frog, and North Western salamander utilize wetland areas for breeding, shelter, and overwintering.
-Fish species (e.g., Salish Sucker, Sticklebacks, salmon), rely on the riparian and in-stream habitat for feeding, spawning, and refuge.
-Native pollinators, including bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies, which depend on the native pollinator plants for breeding and foraging. The site includes numerous plantings of native pollinator plants in all ecosystems to enhance biodiversity of these areas.
-Birds, including insectivores and seed-eaters, benefit from open meadows, shrub cover, and edge habitat for nesting and feeding, waterfowl use wetland areas for feeding and resting, raptors and meadow-associated birds, rely on the site for nesting, foraging, and cover.
-Small mammals use the site's shrub and woodland areas for nesting, denning, and movement corridors.

As an actively managed and ecologically restored wetland-riparian site, the Earthwise Agassiz property plays an important role in regional biodiversity conservation. Its connectivity to the Miami River makes it a vital part of the broader watershed system. In 2020-2021 the property was included in a study by the Miami River Task Force, a multi-agency initiative to address declining Miami River ecosystem health. This further underscored its ecological importance. In addition to its conservation value, the site also serves a unique demonstration function, showing how ecological restoration and sustainable agriculture can coexist to support both habitat values and working landscapes.

Together, the site's ecosystems, species diversity, and role in the broader landscape mosaic make it a high-value property for the conservation of biodiversity, wildlife, fish, and habitats in British Columbia, particularly in the increasingly developed Lower Mainland.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

Maintaining the ecological functions of the site, including water quality, nutrient cycling, flood mitigation, and biodiversity, is essential to sustaining these habitats in the face of environmental pressures. This funding application supports ongoing maintenance and stewardship of the Earthwise Agassiz conservation site to ensure the long-term protection and enhancement of its critical wetland, riparian, woodland, and pollinator meadow habitats. The main threat to the site at this time is the potential downgrading of the restored wetlands and riparian ecosystems due to strong competition from key invasive species that have long been present at the site or that quickly become re-established following restoration activities.

Our Management goal are:

1. Prevent re-establishment and spread of key invasive species in restored habitat ecosystems that threaten biodiversity and disrupt nutrient cycling.

2. Enhance and maintain habitat quality and ecological functions at the site including increased native plant coverage

3. Monitor species to document biodiversity and assess populations of targeted endangered species including Salish sucker, western bumblebee, and Oregon spotted frog.

4. Continue to develop the site as a learning resource for ecological land use and habitat conservation. This includes Increased public awareness and community engagement, clearly marked trails for low impact public access, interpretative signs, and structured educational activities.

5. Ensure long term success of habitat enhancement and conservation initiatives at the site by developing a five year management plan reflecting program evaluation and recommendations. This will include building partnerships and alliances for on-going conservation efforts.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

1. Inventory of Miami River Riparian Area by Krystal Brennan 2017
2. Bird census by Janne Perrin (annual inventory 2022-2025)
3. Earthwise Wetland restoration Construction Report 2019
4. Amphibian Egg mass Survey Methodology 2022
5. Endangered Animal Species at Earthwise Agassiz 2017

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Miami River Streamkeepers (expertise, labour), Pearson Ecological (expertise), Fraser Valley Conservancy (information, expertise) Seabird Island (expertise)

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

The Earthwise Agassiz site benefits from strong and ongoing local community involvement. In 2020 we established a Stewardship Committee, made up of trained volunteers from the Agassiz-Harrison area. While this was a very effective method of community engagement, only a few of the original members are still active. A major activity for this project will be to re-establish this committee. The Stewardship Committee received a four session training package on the site ecosystems and conservation goals, native and invasive species, and habitat monitoring. The Committee will meet bi-weekly during the active season to conduct habitat maintenance activities, including trail upkeep, invasive species removal, and planting. The Committee can play a critical role in maintaining and enhancing the site's ecological integrity and helping to ensure the long term success of the project.

Earthwise Agassiz also collaborates with local partners such as the Miami River Streamkeepers, who conduct monthly bird counts that contribute to long-term biodiversity monitoring and habitat assessment. For the past 5 years Pearson Ecological has conducted aquatic species monitoring at the site for the DFO, targeting the Salish Sucker and other species at risk. These partners have helped provide ecological data that supports ongoing habitat management and restoration planning.

Community members also engage with the site through low-impact recreational use such as walking and birdwatching, which helps raise awareness of local conservation efforts. These ongoing community-driven efforts help ensure the long-term success of the restored habitats by fostering a strong stewardship ethic and local sense of ownership over the land.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

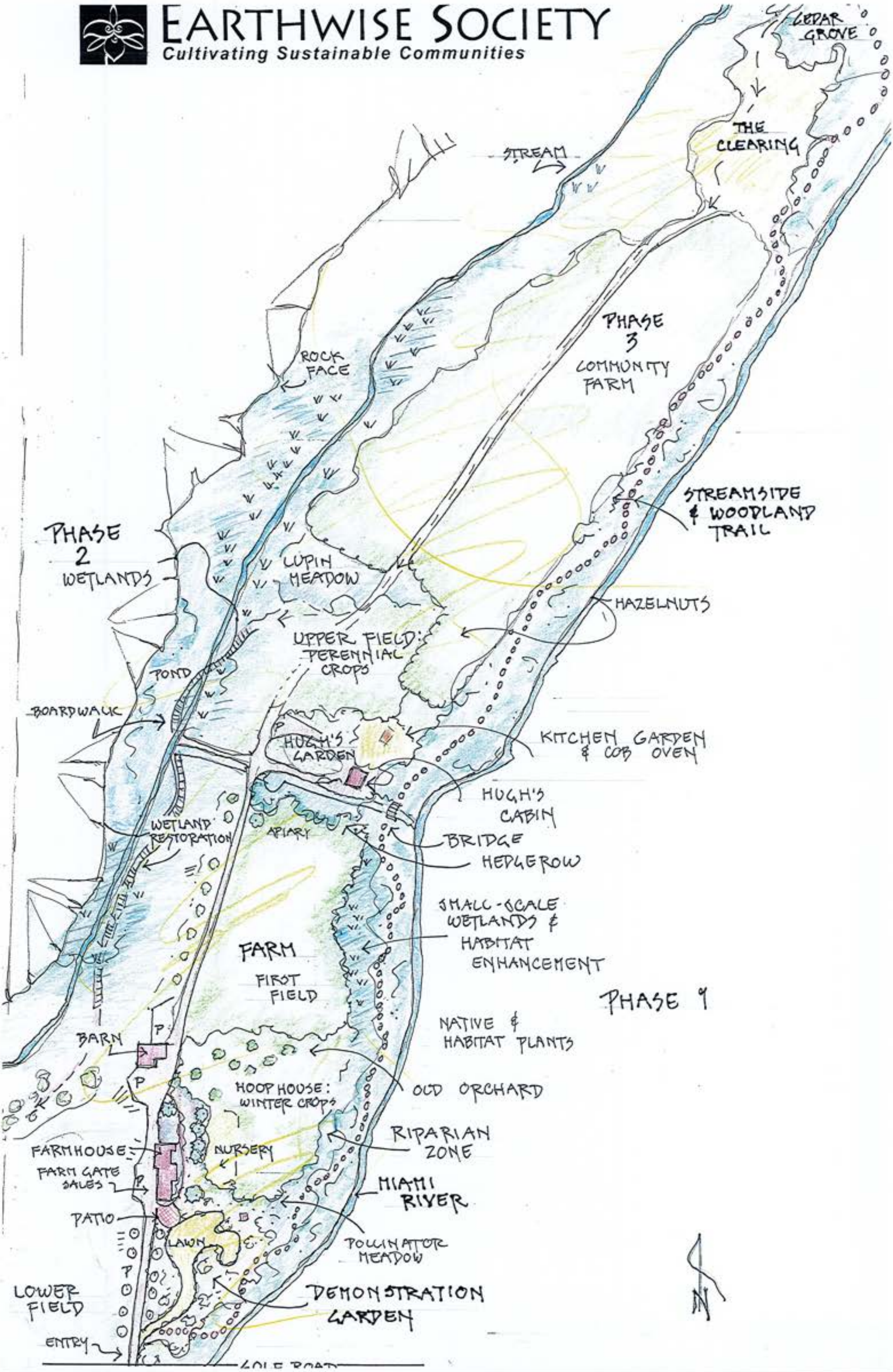
*Certification

Responses Selected:

By submitting this application you certify that all the information presented is true and accurate and that all partners and additional proponents have agreed to participate in this project.

EARTHWISE SOCIETY

Cultivating Sustainable Communities



HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:

Earthwise Agassiz

Legend

Fill in

Picklist selection - do not overwrite

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Earthwise Agassiz	1a. Ecosystem Based	Remove invasive species in restored wetlands- reed canary grass and Himalayan balsam - to prevent re-establishment in areas previously cleared as part of the wetlands restoration. The focus for reed canary grass management is to create shade and native plant competition. Reed canary grass removal will include cutting, tarping , mulching in target areas and planting native trees for quick shade along with native wetland marginal shrubs that can establish quickly. See below for specific plant species. Removing invasive species that threaten native biodiversity and disrupt nutrient cycling is key to maintaining and enhancing habitat quality and ecological functions, along with planting native vegetation to support wildlife. Note that the problem is concentrated in disturbed areas along wetland edges. Elsewhere strong existing native vegetation hardhack and dogwood provides shade and competition.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	150 m3	Annually
	1a. Ecosystem Based	In riparian zones, remove Himalayan balsam (most prevalent invasive) as well as reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberrry in some sections. Reed canary grass in less problematic in thse zones due to shading. In riparian zones remove black walnut seedlings. Although not listed as a BC invasive plant, black walnut has become a local problem along the Miami River through to Harrison Village, due its production of aliopathic Juglone toxicity, which can reduce growth and establishment of native plants in the riparian zones. The goal of this activity will be to remove new walnut seedlings along the river at the Agassiz property and selectively remove established walnut trees in targeted zones.	Invasive species removed (m^3)	700 m3	Annually
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Maintain and expand native vegetation cover. In the wetlands areas this will include planting quick growing native trees - including red alder, cedar (thuja plicata) and birch (betula papirifera) - to shade out reed canary grass. Also plant wetland edge woody species that establish and spread including dogwood (cornus serica), hardhack (spiraea douglassii) , rosa spp, and salmonberry. These shrubs also have good habitat value for birds and pollinators.	Native species planted (#)	50 native plants/yr	Annually
	1a. Ecosystem Based	Planting in riparian zones will focus on native trees for shade to replace black walnuts including vine maple, crabapple, douglas fir, western red cedar, big leaf maple. Additional native flowering shrubs and perennials will also be included along the trails for pollinator forage and biodiversity. This will include mock orange philadelphus lewisii, Pacific bleeding heart dicentra formosa, western red columbine aquilegia formosa and Star-folwered false Solomon's seal maianthemum stellatum and others as available.	Native species planted (#)	120 native plants/yr	Annually
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Inspect and maintain 2.5 km loop trail, along the Miami River and viewing areas of the restored wetlands. This includes boardwalks and viewing platforms in the restored wetlands, to ensure safe access and protection of sensitive habitats. Renew bark mulch on trails in wetlands.	Trails maintained (km)	2.5 km trails maintained	Annually
	1b. Infrastructure Based	Inspect and maintain 12 interpretative signage along riparian and wetland trails to make sure they are in good condition. Replace posts if damage is observed.	Signs maintained (#)	12 signs maintained	Annually
	3. Awareness	The Earthwise Agassiz site has been designed to provide opportunities for members of the public to visit, explore and learn about habitat conservation. Supported activites include reusable maps of self guiding trails in the riparian zones and in viewing areas of the restored wetlands. Guided site tours are also available to businesses, community groups and to the public on request.	Events held (#)	12 events (guided tours) annually	Annually
	6. Planning & Designation	In year 3, develop a 5 year management plan based on observed successes of this program to provide long term guidance to ensure that successful techniques are kept up . This will include compiling and reviewing data collection and notes from activities, evaluating success, and making recommendations for ongoing maintenance best practices for this sire.	Documents created (#)	1 document/updated plan	Year 3
	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Monitor wetlands to ensure water quality, flood mitigation and minimal human distrubance in sensitive areas. This will include aquatic species monitoring on the site in the Miami River and in the wetlands. Over the past 5 years, Pearson Ecological has conducted monitoring, with a focus on endangered Salish Sucker, stickleback and salmon.	Assessments completed (#)	1 assessment	Annually
	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Amphibian monitoring has been conducted as a staff led citizen science project including eggmass counts in wetland and riparian habitats conducted annually Species include at risk northern red legged frog. Also Pacific chorus frog and North Western salamander.	Assessments completed (#)	1 assessment/yr	Annually

Auto calculated - do not overwrite	
Overview - HCTF Funding	
Subtotal:	$ 48,000.00
Admin Fee %	
Admin Fee $	$ -
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$ 48,000.00**
Admin Note	
Additional Funding	
Additional Funding Required	
Additional Funding Confirmed	

	8. Monitoring, Research & Evaluation	Conduct monthly bird counts led by Miami River Streamkeepers to track avian biodiversity trends and habitat use. Some species of interest observed at the site include at risk barn swallow, Vaux's swift, Evening grossbeak, and Hamonds flycatcher. Bird counts help to assess ecosystem functions of pollinator meadows, riparian, and wetland habitats to support biodiversity for a wide variety of avian species observed at the site.	Assessments completed (#)	12 assessments/yr	Annually
	10. Relationship Building	Continue building relationship with Seabird Island First Nation. We are currently delivering a Land Based learning program for Seabird School at the Earthwise site that includes learning actvities at the riparian and wetlands ecosystems. Over the next year, as part of this, we are reaching out to increase participation from elders and traditional knowledge keepers as part of this educational initiative.	Partner engagement (#)	5/yr	Annually
	10. Relationship Building	Continue to build and strengthen partnerships with community groups and stakeholders to share expertise, resources, and advice on habitat restoration initiatives and species monitoring, including Pearson Ecological for aquatic species inventories (DFO) and Miami River Streamkeepers for monthly bird counts.	Partner engagement (#)	14/yr	Annually
	9. Training	Resume training of Stewardship Committee 4 week training program, includes participation in environmental monitoring activities and citizen science.	Individuals trained (#)	5 individuals trained/yr	Annually

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE

Edwards Pond Fencing

4-784

Application: Edwards Pond Fencing

Al PEATT - apeatt@siltrust.ca
Land Stewardship

Summary

ID: LS26-27-0000000035
Last submitted: Mar 31 2026 08:41 AM (PDT)

Land Stewardship Application Form

Completed - Nov 7 2025

Before beginning your application below, we recommend downloading the Application Worksheet *to prepare your answers and then copy and paste them into the form below.*

Please refer to the Land Stewardship Grant Program Guidelines *for information on eligible applicants, eligible properties, eligible and ineligible activities and expenses, and other project considerations.*

For helpful tips on using the Survey Apply system, please refer to the Survey Apply Application Guide.

All of these documents can be found on the **Land Stewardship** apply page.

Land Stewardship Application Form

Pre-Screening Questions

Is your conservation property(s) within BC?

Yes

What kind of property management do you intend to fund with this grant?

Actively manage

Is this conservation project solely focused on federally managed salmon species?

No

Are you a Regional, Local, Municipal, or Provincial government applicant?

No

Do you own or do you manage the conservation land you are applying for?

Own

Project Title: *Edwards Pond Fencing*

1. Proponent Contact Information

*Contact Information

The contact person for this project is considered the Project Leader. The email address provided must be linked to a **verified** Survey Apply account.

Project Leader Full Name:	Alan Peatt
Project Leader Role/Title:	Executive Director
Email Address:	apeatt@siltrust.ca
Work Phone:	250-328-4699
Cell Phone:	250-328-4699
Field Contact (optional):	(No response)

*Mailing Address

The name and address listed here will be used to issue payments. **Pending approval, the organization listed here will be legally responsible for this project.**

Organization:	Southern Interior Land Trust Society
Address:	521 Vardon Lane
City:	Vernon
Province:	British Columbia
Postal Code:	V1H 1Y4
Website:	www.siltrust.ca

2. Amount Requested from HCTF

*Total Amount Requested of HCTF

Ensure that this number matches the total request in the Budget Spreadsheet.

Important note: If there is a discrepancy between this amount and the total in the spreadsheet, we will consider the amount in the budget spreadsheet (Excel file) to be correct.

$ 15,000

3. Organization Details

*Organization Details

Date of Incorporation:	1988-11-04
BC Society No. (if applicable):	S-0023194
CRA Charitable registration number (if applicable):	119248276 RR0001
Are you a qualified donee? (if applicable)	Yes

Briefly describe a.) your organization including history and mission b.) annual budget and funding sources c.) approximate number of staff and volunteers d.) your organizations experience with conservation land management and recent conservation activities.

The Southern Interior Land Trust Society (SILT), formed in 1988 as the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society, is a Canadian registered not-for-profit charity run by an independent volunteer board. SILT seeks to create a legacy of protected, important habitats for all living things by acquiring jewels of wildlife habitat that act as “stepping-stones” for animal movement and ecosystem connectivity throughout the southern interior of British Columbia.

SILT has no physical office, no employees, and thus minimal overhead. A senior Registered Professional Biologist manages SILT’s operations under contract as its Executive Director and is accountable to SILT's Board and to the regulatory requirements of BC's Professional Governance Act. SILT's Treasurer for over 20 years is the former owner of a successful mid-sized construction company based in Kelowna, BC. SILT is a Land Trust Alliance of BC member. SILT is the only land trust in Western Canada that holds Conservation Excellence Certification from the national Centre for Land Conservation.

SILT has no recurrent regular revenue from any source and relies on donations and grants for its land acquisition and management activities. 2024 revenue = $215k; charitable program spending = $198k. SILT has about $119k in invested endowments for land stewardship revenue generation for 3 of its conservation properties (not Edwards Pond).

Does your organization have dedicated funding for the operations and management of owned or managed conservation lands?

Yes

4. Short Project Description

*Provide a 2-3 sentence non-technical description of the project. This may be used in a public announcement should your application be selected for funding (max 250 words).

Construct 300 metres of wildlife-friendly, fire resistant, boundary fence to identify the Edwards Pond conservation property boundary and prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access, while allowing walk-in public access for wildlife- and nature-appreciation. Maintain and/or rebuild 500 meters of existing old boundary fence at the Grand Forks Grasslands conservation property, in cooperation with the adjacent private land owner, to reduce the likelihood of livestock trespass.

5. Conservation Property Information

Applicants have the option of applying for one of 3 property scenarios with a **funding maximum for all options of $60,000 over 3 years.**

Applicants may apply for:

1. Funding for a **single conservation property** that applicants own and/or manage. **OR;**
2. Funding for **multiple conservation properties** (up to a maximum of 4) that applicants own and/or manage where similar operations and management activities are needed. These properties may have different owner/manager scenarios. **OR;**
3. Funding for a **single property complex**. A Property Complex is considered a combination of conservation properties that have shared property boundaries and similar management, and operations needs. For this intake HCTF will consider property complexes made up of no more than 4 properties. The applicant may own some or all of the properties within the complex.

The maximum number of applications any one organization may submit is 2.

*Please select the property option you wish to apply for:

A. Single Conservation Property or Multiple Properties up to 4

*Project Region

Please select the region in which your project will occur. Note that HCTF uses the old provincial region designations (e.g. the *Wildlife Management Units Map*).

4-Kootenay

*Cumulative property size (Ha)

Please list the total amount of hectare for ALL properties covered in this application.

162

*How many properties are included in this application:

3

Property 1

If your property already exists in the Conservation Lands Database please use the existing “Project Name” which is available for viewing on **BC iMap**.

If you are applying for multiple properties please note we will use the Property 1 name for communication purposes and HCTF internal project tracking.

Property Name:	Edwards Pond
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-780-573
Latitude:	49.0070
Longitude:	-118.3660
Individual Property size (Ha):	20

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

34 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above.

Fee simple parcel owned and managed for conservation by SILT.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Walk-in public access for wildlife- and nature-related recreation. Wildlife watching, other wildlife appreciation including hunting, ice skating on the ponds in winter.

Property 2

Property Name:	Grand Forks Grasslands (DL 492)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	001-564-005
Latitude:	49.0322
Longitude:	-118.4017
Individual Property size (Ha):	109

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

5 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Fee simple conservation property owned and managed by SILT.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Walk-in public access for wildlife- and nature-related recreation such as wildlife watching and appreciation, including hunting.

Property 3

Property Name:	Grand Forks Grasslands (Lot A DL 493)
Property Identification Number(s) (PID):	002-223-163
Latitude:	49.0325
Longitude:	-118.4101
Individual Property size (Ha):	35

*Does your organization have fee simple ownership of this property?

Yes

*How long has your organization owned this property?

5 years

Lease Agreement (if applicable)

If the property is leased to another party, there must be an agreement in place giving your organization management authority to undertake the activities presented in your application. A letter must be provided from the leaseholder stating that such an agreement is in place, or a copy of the agreement signed by both parties must be provided.

*Select all conservation designations that apply from the list below.

If none of the choices apply, please select 'Other' and provide details in the text box to describe what supports the conservation value of the land e.g. First Nations traditional practices that conserve species and habitats.

Responses Selected:

Other – describe in text box below

*Describe your selection(s) from the list above:

Fee simple conservation land owned and managed by SILT.

*Describe the type of public access and recreation activities (if applicable) that occur on and around the site(s).

Walk-in public access for wildlife- and nature-appreciation such as wildlife watching and hiking, hunting is permitted.

6. Project Links

*Has your organization previously received Land Stewardship grant funding for the property(ies)?

No

*Is this project affiliated with another project that has or is receiving funding from another HCTF grant? (e.g. Fish and Wildlife (formerly ERS), Capacity, Community, etc).

Yes

*Please provide the HCTF project name and number (e.g. 0-123), and a short description of how they are connected.

Grand Forks Grasslands Livestock Exclusion, PCAF # PCAF--0000000024
This $3700 grant in 2021 support initial property stewardship activities including old fence wire removal, fence repairs, and provided seed funds for a cattleguard to be installed.

7. Habitat Description, Significance and Management Goals

*Provide a description of the ecological significance of this property(ies).

- What are the important species and/or biodiversity supported
- What groups of species and what habitat needs does the property(ies) support e.g. (waterfowl feeding, resting and nesting, butterfly breeding area, denning area)
- What important ecosystems or habitats are found here – e.g. Coastal Douglas fir ecosystems, winter range, riparian habitat, etc.

The intent of this question is to help assess the important role this property(ies) or property complex plays in the conservation of biodiversity and conservation of fish, wildlife and habitats in B.C.

Edwards Pond is a 20-hectare cut-off oxbow of the Kettle River with an intact floodplain cottonwood woodland east of Grand Forks. Such woodlands are rare in the Kettle River valley bottom. The property supports a Great Blue Heron nesting colony and abundant Western Painted Turtles White-tailed deer, bobcat, and introduced Wild Turkey inhabit the woodland and grassy meadow areas.

The Grand Forks Grasslands is best known for supporting a herd of California bighorn sheep that use the area year-round as a forage and security habitat. It also contains important winter/ spring range for Mule and White-tailed deer; and supports at least six federally listed species-at-risk including Western Rattlesnake, Great Basin Gophersnake, Western Yellow-bellied Racer, Spadefoot Toad, Tiger Salamander and American Badger. At-risk bats are known to roost on the property, and there is suitable habitat for Sharp Tailed Grouse (considered locally extirpated). SILT's Grand Forks Grasslands property is located two kilometres (km) east of Grand Forks and about one km north of Highway 3. The property is 144 hectares (356 acres) of open, rolling bunchgrass grassland interspersed with patches of trembling aspen-rose and black hawthorn thickets, other deciduous shrubs, and exposed bedrock and talus at higher elevations. Two creeks run through the northeast and southwest corners of the property.

*Briefly and succinctly describe the management goal(s) that this funding application will support for the property(ies).

The management goal(s) should seek to address conservation threats (human threats or natural process) that are or could impact the ecological significance described above. Management goal(s) should describe the desired condition over the long term.

Note the Objectives and Activities listed in the Budget Spreadsheet of the application should directly support the goal(s) listed here.

New fencing at Edwards Pond will identify the conservation land boundary at a location where there has been a history of motor vehicle trespass which has led to soil and vegetation disturbances, unauthorized wildlife tree removal, and potentially disturbance to the heron colony and other birds during their nesting season.

Repair and maintenance of existing boundary fences at the Grand Forks Grasslands conservation property (2 parcels) will help ensure that livestock remain excluded from these important low elevation grasslands, and that the property boundaries are apparent to public users, including those inclined to trespass with motorized vehicles. Our hope is to also strengthen relationships with adjacent private land owners by cooperative efforts to maintain the existing boundary fences.

8. Guiding Documents

*List any documents used to guide management at the site (e.g. management plan, access management plan, restoration plan, invasive species management guide). Please include the year the document was completed.

Grand Forks Grasslands Property Management Plan, SILT Board approved September 2025.
https://siltrust.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Grand-Forks-Mgt-Plan-APPROVED.pdf

Management activities at SILT's Edwards Pond property are guided by oversight of SILT's board and its registered professional biologist executive director. SILT applies best management practices on all its properties and not only subscribes to the CLTA standards and practices but holds Conservation Excellence Ceritification from the Centre for Land Conservation.

9. Partnership and Community Engagement

*HCTF recognizes that the operations and management of conservation lands often happens with a variety of partners including First Nations Partnerships. **This question is for information only and is not part of application assessment.** Please indicate which level of First Nations partnership listed below that is the best fit:

- **First Nations Applicant** – This is a First Nation lead project.
- **Full Partner** - Involved in management and operation direction, design, implementation, dissemination, and follow up work. Involved in all related management and/or operational activities.
- **Partial Partner** - Involved in some key milestones and events, has a say in key elements but may not be involved in all management and/or operational activities.
- **Info-Sharing Partner** - Nations are kept informed of activities and progress specific to management and operation activities and in return may include the sharing or input on First Nations values and priorities as they pertain to site management.
- **No Current Partnership**

Info-Sharing Partner

*List any anticipated project partners/organizations and the nature of their contribution (e.g. labour, materials, funding and/or expertise).

Granby Guide Outfitters Ltd. Inkind support, volunteer labour.
Grand Forks Wildlife Association members. Volunteer labour
Other community contacts. Community outreach and volunteer labour.
OmniTrax. Permission to use rail grade access at Edwards Pond.

*Describe existing or anticipated local community involvement in conserving and maintaining the property.

Granby Guide Outfitters assists with property management of SILT's properties in the Grand Forks area. YRB Road Maintenance has provided inkind support previously to support installation of a cattleguard. SILT has numerous individual volunteer contacts in the area to help with various property stewardship activities, including some members of the Grand Forks Wildlife Association. SILT collaborates with the Nature Trust of BC on activities that may influence its Morrissey Creek property adjacent to SILT's Grand Forks Grasslands.

10. Acknowledgement & Submission Process

Edwards Ponds Conservation Property

Grand Forks, BC

FrontCounterBC Locations

Edwards Pond property

Google Earth

Image © 2025 Airbus

N

100 m

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

Property/Complex Name:
Edwards Pond

Legend
Fill in
Picklist selection - do not overwrite
Auto calculated - do not overwrite

Overview - HCTF Funding		
Subtotal:	$	15,000.00
Admin Fee %		
Admin Fee $	$	-
3 Year Total Including Admin Fee:	**$**	**15,000.00**
Admin Note		

Additional Funding		
Additional Funding Required	$	-
Additional Funding Confirmed	$	-

Objectives aka Conservation Actions

Property/Complex Name	Conservation Action	Activity Description - These should include detailed specfic see examples tab	Metrics	Target Value	Timeline
Edwards Pond	1b. Infrastructure Based	Construct 300 metres of new wildlife-friendly fence to identify property bdy and exclude trespass motor vehicles from accessing a grass meadow- riparian woodland area of the wetland. Install private conservation property and no-vehicles signage on the new fence.	Fencing installed (km)	0.3	Year 1
GFks Grasslands (Lot A)	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain/repair 500 metres of existing boundary fence to exclude livestock and unauthorized motor vehicles. Maintain and replace conservation property and no vehicle sinage as needed.	Fencing maintained (km)	0.5	Year 1
GFks Grasslands (DL492)	1b. Infrastructure Based	Maintain/repair 500 metres of existing boundary fence to exclude livestock and unauthorized motor	Fencing maintained (km)	0.5	Year 2

DO NOT ENTER BELOW HERE