

Together for Wildlife

Together for Wildlife HCTF Conservation Scholarship

Recipient 2026

Amanda Ketch



Amanda (she/her) is a Master's student at the University of Victoria Raincoast Applied Conservation Science Lab, advised by Dr. Chris Darimont. She is working in collaboration with the Kwiakah First Nation to map winter habitat for Roosevelt Elk (Tlawals) in their territory.

Amanda is of settler and Métis ancestry, born and raised among the pines along the shores of Lake Okanagan. Inspired by childhood family camping trips to Vancouver Island she moved to Victoria to complete an undergraduate degree in Geography and Earth and Ocean Sciences, working outside in tourism or conservation in the summers. After completing an undergraduate degree she began working in the Great Bear Rainforest, first as an aquatics technician for Fisheries and Oceans Canada and then as a wildlife research technician for the Raincoast Applied Conservation Science Lab. With the ACS lab she had her first experiences in community led research, and is excited to continue this kind of work through her MSc Project.

On the coast of British Columbia, industrial logging has dramatically changed the landscape, changing the quantity and quality of habitat available to wildlife. Winter is a time when small patches of habitat can become particularly important for many species, including Roosevelt elk, who on low-elevation mature forests for shelter from winter storms and as a source of food when browse is scarce. These forests are also often the target of forestry operations.

Amanda and the Kwiakah First Nation are interested in using accessible and non-invasive methods, namely remote cameras, to map winter habitat for elk in their territory. This work will bring new empirical insight and will directly inform Indigenous and Provincial land managers. By collaborating in the interest of best outcomes for wildlife this work advances HCTF's Together for Wildlife Goals. This project will guide Kwiakah management of their territory as well as form the foundation for further wildlife monitoring efforts in Kwiakah territory.