



HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION

Year 3 Reports

Land Stewardship Grants
2023-2026 Funding Cycle

Land Stewardship Grants

2023-26

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, 25 grants have been awarded. This document contains year 3 reports for projects approved for funding for 2023-2026.

Project #	Project Name	Organization	Amount Spent up to Yr 3
1-817	Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve	Salt Spring island Conservancy	\$49,967
1-818	Millard Learning Centre	Galiano Conservancy Association	\$45,649
1-819	Matson Conservation Area	Habitat Acquisition Trust	\$38,500
1-820	Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2	Denman Conservancy Association	\$31,399
2-764	Ryder Creek	Fraser Valley Conservancy	\$22,255
5-347	Horsefly River	Nature Conservancy of Canada	\$49,020
8-500	Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park	BC Small Wetlands Association	\$22,000

Total for program:

\$258,790

Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

1-817



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 1-817

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve

Project Leader Name: Clare Cullen (Sept 2025- March 2026); Penelope Barnes (April 2023-Sept 2025)

Name of Organization: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Date of Report: April 15, 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Contact Information: clare@saltspringconservancy.ca

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

In this final year of the HCTF Land Stewardship grant, our focus was on controlling invasive species on the Blackburn Nature Reserve, as well as maintaining trails and pathways to allow and encourage public access and engagement with the site. Canada Thistle and Reed Canary Grass were the primary invasive plant species of interest in terms of removal/ management.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).

Year 3 Results Summary — Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR) Invasive Species Management

SSIC's Year 3 activities at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR) focused on Management Goal 1a (Eliminate, Reduce or Manage Invasive Species) and Goal 4 (Provide Ongoing and Educational Public Access). Work was carried out by SSIC's contract field technician, staff, and volunteer wardens throughout the field season.

Canada Thistle Control

Canada thistle (CT) was managed from June through early September using the mower purchased with HCTF support in Year 2. Regular cutting by the field technician, staff, and volunteers successfully prevented seeding and encroachment throughout the season. In an experimental open-field area bordering a native willow and alder grove, the ground was roughed up to encourage natural seed set while mowing kept CT spread in check — an approach that shows promise for longer-term naturalization of the area.

Reed Canary Grass Control

Reed canary grass (RCG) was cut three times over the season by the field technician, staff, and volunteer wardens. Repeated cutting weakened the plants and helped prevent seeding and further encroachment into wetland and riparian areas. Cutting remains an essential interim measure given the extent of RCG on the reserve and the multi-year timeline required for the longer-term experimental restoration approach.

SSIC's RCG control experiments — based on establishing native species to outcompete and shade out the invasive grass — continued to show early signs of success. These experimental areas use mulching, weeding, and fencing to protect native plantings from browsing. As successful areas mature and fencing is repurposed, SSIC plans to expand this method to additional RCG-dense locations using plants from its own nursery.

Trail Maintenance and Public Access

Walking trails throughout the reserve were maintained using the mower, ensuring continued public access to BLNR — SSIC's most visited reserve. Regular mowing of the paths reduced instances of the public walking off-trail, minimizing disturbance to sensitive ecosystems. This work directly supported Goal 4 by keeping the reserve safely and comfortably accessible to walkers throughout the season.

Infrastructure Context

Trail and invasive species management in the southern sections of the reserve was made possible in part by bridge and equipment investments supported by HCTF funding in prior years. The replacement of the Hitchcock Creek bridge restored vehicular access that had been lost due to flood damage in November 2021, allowing the utility vehicle and mower to reach areas that had been inaccessible. Without this access, the level of CT mowing and RCG cutting achieved in Year 3 would not have been possible.

Conclusion

Year 3 results demonstrate meaningful progress toward SSIC's vision of healthy, biodiverse ecosystems at BLNR. HCTF-funded equipment and contractor support enabled a sustained program of invasive species management across a large and ecologically complex reserve, while keeping trails open and well-maintained for the public. Work will continue in subsequent years as experimental native planting areas expand and RCG control is scaled up.

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

Lessons learned include understanding that construction projects may have extended or delayed timelines that can then impact other elements of a project. In our situation, in year 1 the bridge replacement project took longer than originally anticipated.

SSIC intended to purchase the mower in year 1, however we wanted to ensure that the bridge replacement was completed prior to ordering the mower since the bridge is needed to allow mower access to sections of the site. Thus, the mower purchase was moved to year 2, following approval of a change request submitted to HCTF's Conservation Lands Program Coordinator.

An unseen benefit was that we required clear communication to BLNR visitors to ensure safety and awareness of bridge closure which gave us an opportunity to explain the rationale, share information about flooding, creek health, etc.

Overall, we are happy with the results of the RCG and CT mitigation approaches: regular and consistent mowing and cutting back to allow native seedlings to take hold. These invasives are not completely removed from the BLNR but certainly reduced with growth not as prolific.

Pathways for the public have been well-received and we have a steady rate of visitation, albeit not quantified. One lesson learned would be to adopt a methodology of quantifying (counting) visits as well as gauging visitor satisfaction.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

SSIC's outreach activities that directly relate to this project are the multiple volunteer training sessions focused on land stewardship techniques on Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve (BLNR), including plant propagation, and invasive species removal.

Specific to this project also were on-going training sessions provided to BLNR volunteer wardens on control of Canada thistle and reed canary grass, as well as on trail maintenance. Volunteers regularly help with nature reserve maintenance. In 2025, for example, volunteers donated over 150 hours to BLNR maintenance, including invasive plant removal, trail clearing, and monitoring visits from a dedicated warden. 54 hours specifically went to meet the HCTF goal 1.a and goal 4 for year 3 – RGC and

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

thistle removal, and pathway-mowing. Professionals also volunteer their services. For example, engineers provided advice on bridge replacement and maintenance. Each year, educational workshop participants provide volunteer labour for plant propagation by seeding, cutting and division for site management and restoration. Volunteers provide labour for specific projects, such as planting and weeding. In 2025, workshop participants and project volunteers contributed over 90 hours to conservation on the reserve.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

HCTF is listed on our website as one of our important grantors.
In year 1, HCTF is mentioned in blog posts regarding the bridge replacement project.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

Newsletter (reaching over 550 subscribers):

Drifting into Autumn, includes reference to trail maintenance – September 11, 2025

Volunteer Warden Intake and Presentation, October 9, 2025

Social media (reaching over 1200 followers):

Fall Planting Workshops Video, Instagram & Facebook @saltspringconservancy – October 28, 2025

Volunteer Warden Call-Out, Instagram & Facebook @saltspringconservancy – October 16, 2025

Volunteer Warden Intake & Presentation, Instagram & Facebook @saltspringconservancy – October 8, 2025

Bridge Maintenance at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Instagram & Facebook @saltspringconservancy – September 11, 2025

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1. Reed Canary Grass Control - South of Hitchcock Bridge. Reed canary grass immediately prior to one of three cuttings per year.

Photo 2. Reed Canary Grass Control – Area of dense reed canary grass following cutting.

Photo 3. Walking Trail – Trails are maintained by volunteers and field technician.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

(Additional photos are available – please email clare@saltspringconservancy.ca to request more. Thanks!)

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for Information on Capital Assets.

In year 3, no capital assets were purchased with HCTF funding.

In years 1 and 2, capital assets included:

- Replacement of bridge over Hitchcock Creek - \$27,249.98
- Brush cutter - \$2,002.72
- Mower - \$4544.25

Provide any other information you wish to share with HCTF.

In the initial HCTF Land Stewardship application, there was no expectation that SSIC would engage with Indigenous community members on this project: the section was left blank on the application. Since that time, SSIC has taken strides to foster relationships with Indigenous partners and community members, such as the Stqeeye' Learning Society, and move towards sharing land stewardship practices and knowledge, data, and resources. We recognize the importance of these relationships as well as the need for organizations such as SSIC to demonstrate good, meaningful engagement practices as we undertake land-based work on traditional and unceded First Nations land.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 1. Reed Canary Grass Control - South of Hitchcock Bridge. Reed canary grass immediately prior to one of three cuttings per year.



Photo 2. Reed Canary Grass Control – Area of dense reed canary grass following cutting.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 3. Walking Trail – Trails are maintained by volunteers and field technician.



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 1-817

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP, NS)	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve		1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Restore utility vehicle access to southern portion of reserve in order to permit invasive species control equipment access	New bridge over Hitchcock Creek (year 1) allows pedestrian and utility vehicle crossing (years 1-3)	Obtain design plans from structural engineer (year 1).	C	Completed in Year 1.
					Obtain necessary permits (year 1).	C	
					Construct the bridge (year 1).	C	
		1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species (also contributes to Goal 4: Provide ongoing and educational public access)	Acquire equipment necessary to eliminate, reduce or manage invasive plants on the reserve	Acquire a trailer mower for controlling Canada thistle and a brushcutter for controlling Reed canary grass (year 1). Mower and brushcutter used successfully in years 1-3.	Purchase trailer mower to use with existing utility vehicle (year 1).	C	Purchase of trail mower completed in Year 2 (with permission from HCTF). Purchase of brushcutter completed in Year 1.
					Purchase brushcutter (year 1).	C	
		1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Canada thistle	Canada thistle mowed on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Mow Canada thistle 2 times per year (years 1-3).	C	Canada thistle was cut by SSIC's field technician (contractor), staff and volunteer wardens using a mower (purchased in year 2) from June to early September, as needed to prevent seeding and encroachment.
		1a. Eliminate, reduce or manage invasive species	Control Reed canary grass	Reed canary grass cut on schedule (years 1-3); seeding and encroachment prevented (years 1-3).	Obtain necessary permit exemptions (year 2).	C	The necessary permit exemptions were obtained in Year 2. Reed canary grass was cut three times by SSIC's contract field technician, staff and volunteer wardens, thereby weakening the plants and helping to prevent seeding and encroachment.
					Cut Reed canary grass 3 times per year (years 1-3).	C	
		4. Provide ongoing and educational public access	Maintain clear trails for public access and to reduce the instances of the public walking off-trail and potentially damaging ecosystems	Public trails are clearly delineated by mowing (years 1-3).	Mow trails 3 times per year (years 1-3).	C	The paths were maintained by SSIC's contract field technician, staff and volunteer wardens, using the mower. This mowing maintained the trails for walkers, while reducing instances of the public walking off-trail and potentially damaging ecosystems.

Millard Learning Centre

1-818



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 1-8181

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Millard Learning Centre

Project Leader Name: Adam Huggins

Name of Organization: Galiano Conservancy Association

Date of Report: April 14, 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

In Year 3, we completed all annual introduced species management, trail maintenance, and environmental monitoring activities as planned. We also continued to maintain and monitor the recovery of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration sites, completing a final round of infill planting across the watershed. Significant achievements for Year 3 included: completion and publication of three technical papers on various aspects of our land stewardship work to the Knowledge Hub on the GCA website; completion and public opening of the new 1 km “wetlands trail” through the east branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed; and an accessibility upgrade of the bridge crossing and 1 km “beaver trail” through the east branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).

The Millard Learning Centre is a large property that features a diversity of habitats, a complex history of human disturbance, significant challenges with introduced species, and a range of educational and recreational opportunities for public engagement. This project built on the previous 3-year Land Stewardship Grant, supporting a variety of land stewardship and monitoring activities that contribute to making this property a world-class destination for visitors of all ages and school groups interested in seeing how conservation, ecological restoration, sustainable food production, environmental education, renewable energy, and reconciliation can be applied together at a landscape scale.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

The RESTORE focus for the 3-year project was the completion of primary restoration treatments across 12 ha of the 24 ha Chrystal Creek watershed. HCTF Land Stewardship funds helped to match and supplement the Environment and Climate Change Canada funds, and provided additional funding after the ECCC project end date to support ongoing monitoring, site maintenance, introduced species management, and infill planting activities. Over the course of the project, we planted over 2750 native trees and shrubs and created over 90 wetland pools, which are now being used by beaver, northern red-legged frogs, Pacific chorus frogs, hooded mergansers, wood ducks, Townshend's voles, and a variety of other wetland-associated wildlife.

The EXTEND focus was to maintain and expand our trail network, and to expand our introduced species management activities. We successfully maintained and completed two significant upgrades to our trail network, resulting in two unique trail routes through the east branch of the restored Chrystal Creek watershed. We continued to make progress in preventing the spread of target introduced species on the property, successfully eliminating several populations. To aid in this process, we mapped 27 distinct "broom management zones" totally over 20 ha in ArcGIS online, and have implemented a policy of logging annual inspections for each zone after we completing removal activities. All other occurrences of target species are now mapped in an ArcGIS online points layer, with each observation resolved when removed.

The DETECT focus was to confirm the presence of northern red-legged frogs and sharp-tailed snakes in likely habitats. We successfully confirmed the presence of northern red-legged frogs in restored wetlands within the Chrystal Creek watershed for all three years. We deployed 10 sharp-tailed snake artificial cover objects in suitable locations across the 2 km coastline of the Millard Learning Centre, and have been performing visual inspections in spring and fall. We have not yet detected sharp-tailed snakes at the Millard Learning Centre, but the species was positively identified for the first time in decades on the south end of Galiano Island in 2024, suggesting the species may still be present elsewhere.

The DOCUMENT focus was to publish results from 3-6+ years of monitoring Chrystal Creek, paired deer exclosure plots, and forest gardens based on established protocols. We successfully published three technical reports to our Knowledge Hub on these topics, and presented on our results at the 2024 Society for Ecological Restoration North America conference.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

The project was highly ambitious, and only possible due to more than 50% matching from other funding sources and significant contributions from community volunteers, volunteer interns, and students. Even with this high level of investment, some of the monitoring protocols were simply too labour intensive. In response, we decided to either stagger monitoring (so all plots / points were visited during the project, but not all plots / points were visited every year), simplify protocols down to essential attributes



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

(reducing time requirements), or in one extreme case discontinue monitoring to analyze existing data before deciding whether to proceed. In most cases, we were able to collect the data we needed to inform adaptive management and publish useful results in our Knowledge Hub. For all data sets (revegetation plots, paired deer exclosure plots, forest gardens, and repeat photopoints), we determined early in the project that collecting data annually is too labour intensive, and that data collection on 3 to 5 year intervals would be more likely to yield significant results.

Most other project activities were straightforward. Introduced species management across 76 ha on a highly disturbed landscape is a highly labour-intensive long-term commitment, one which began prior to the grant period and which will continue long after. We have made substantial investments (outside of the scope of this project) into creating ArcGIS online datasets and implementing field data collection through field maps into all of our restoration and monitoring workflows. We are beginning to see the substantial benefits this improvement can yield in terms of enhanced data accessibility, work efficiency, and ability to report on outcomes.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

1. Field courses and student groups from the University of Victoria, Trinity Western, and BCIT were provided tours of project areas and participated in project activities, engaging over 100 post-secondary students.
2. We hosted a community tree-planting on International Day of Forests 2026, with 15 participants.
3. We hosted our annual Walkalong for Learning and provided interpretation in project areas, engaging over 200 people and formally opening the new 1 km Wetlands Trail. The Wetlands Trail and the upgraded 1 km Beaver Trail through the Chrystal Creek watershed formed much of the walking route for the event.
4. We provided multiple tours of project areas to staff from the Mayne Island Conservancy, Pender Islands Conservancy, Quw'ut'sun Cultural Connections Society, WSANEC Land Trust, Rewliding Water and Earth, and Transition Salt Spring.
5. We hosted and provided a tour to the entire Environmental Studies faculty of the University of Victoria.
6. We hosted weekly volunteer days open to the public over the course of the year.

We hosted many other events and K-12 education groups at the Millard Learning Centre, not specifically related to project objectives. Thousands of annual visitors to the Millard Learning Centre are informed about our land stewardship activities through interpretive signage, brochures, and maps found along the trail network on the property.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

1. During in-person tours, events, and presentations (see above), we verbally acknowledged support from the HCTF for our work at the Millard Learning Centre.
2. We release social media posts and supporter newsletters throughout the year, and HCTF is acknowledged where relevant.
3. HCTF is acknowledged the Our Partners and Funders page of our website, as well as on project-specific pages, such as the Chrystal Creek Watershed Restoration page.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

-

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1 – GCA land stewardship technicians remove bindweed roots from a wetland in the Chrystal Creek watershed.

Photo 2 – Native wildflowers growing on rocky bluffs following removal of Scotch broom.

Photo 3 – GCA land stewardship technicians and volunteers remove target introduced species from camas beds in the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest.

Photo 4 – UVic student Kateri Lawson and GCA restoration technician Lúthien Teel complete annual monitoring of paired deer enclosure plots in the restored Mill Site.

Photo 5 – UVic students remove target introduced species from restored wetland in the Chrystal Creek watershed.

Photos 6-10 – Ropes allow GCA land stewardship technicians to perform annual broom removal in sensitive ecosystems found on steep slopes across the 2 km Millard Learning Centre coastline

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

No capital assets were purchased with HCTF funds.

Provide any other information you wish to share with HCT

Thank you for supporting our work at the Millard Learning Centre for 6 years. Most grant cycles for restoration project have very limited time frames, but all restoration sites require ongoing monitoring and stewardship activities, often for 5+ years following the implementation of primary treatments. Many introduced species populations have well-developed root systems or seed banks, and require



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026 FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

consistent annual removal for many years to ensure eradication. Funding for ongoing land stewardship activities like these is very important but also quite rare. Thank you for your support!



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 1 – GCA land stewardship technicians remove bindweed roots from a wetland in the Chrystal Creek watershed.



Photo 3 – GCA land stewardship technicians and volunteers remove target introduced species from camas beds in the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 5 – UVic students remove target introduced species from restored wetland in the Chrystal Creek watershed.



Photo 6 – Ropes allow GCa land stewardship technicians to perform annual broom removal in sensitive ecosystems found on steep slopes across the 2 km Millard Learning Centre coastline



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 1-818

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:	Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP, NS)	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Millard Learning Centre (DL 57)	RESTORE ecosystems throughout the Millard Learning Centre	Complete the restoration of the Chrystal Creek watershed from ridgeline to shoreline	Restoration treatments - including decompaction, wetland construction, ditch removal, streambed realignment, distribution of woody debris, and establishment & protection of native plants - are applied across 11.5 ha of the 26 ha Chrystal Creek watershed.	Plan, coordinate, and implement restoration activities across Phases 1, 2, and 3 of complex restoration program unfolding across multiple funding cycles with a diverse set of funders	C	In Year 3, we continued to maintain the 12+ ha of restored wetlands in the Chrystal Creek watershed. This includes annual plant monitoring and cage maintenance, introduced species management, and soil bioengineering to stabilize spillways. /// Weekly Friday volunteer events were offered regularly throughout the year, including for International Make a Difference (MAD) week to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. We hosted hands-on field classes for UVic, BCIT, Trinity Western University, and the UVic Environmental Restoration Club. /// Following summer monitoring activities, we identified areas in need of replanting and established native plants in those areas with help from UVic students, community members, and volunteers with the Quw'ut'sun Cultural Connections Society.
				Host weekly Friday volunteer days and organize post-secondary field school and volunteer group visits to engage students and the community in restoration treatments	C	
				Replace native plants as needed in planted areas after monitoring for survival	C	
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend and maintain network of nature trails	6.7 km of nature trails maintained, and an additional 800m constructed to replace eroding logging roads	Maintain 6.7 km of nature trails	C	We maintained, improved, and expanded the Millard Learning Centre trail network for Year 23. The trails continue to attract regular use by islanders and visitors. /// We completed construction of a 1 km 'Wetlands Trail' through the east branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed. In August of 2025, we officially opened the trail during the GCA's annual Musical Walkalong For Learning, attracting over 200 people. /// We upgraded the upper footbridge crossing of Chrystal Creek to be wheelchair-accessible, and completed a trail upgrade for the entirety of the 'Beaver Trail' to make it fully wheelchair-accessible. Interpretive signs were installed along the length of the route. These upgrades were completed with non-HCTF funds.
				Construct foot trail (800 m) through the east branch of the Chrystal Creek watershed to replace roads that are removed	C	
				Build a foot bridge / boardwalk to replace culverted road crossing at the outlet of Chrystal Creek	C	
	EXTEND management activities across the Millard Learning Centre	Extend invasive species management activities based on 2021 Invasive Species Management plan	Source and outlying populations of target invasive species identified in the 2021 Invasive Species Management Plan are efficiently controlled and/or eliminated across the property. [Control means the removal of all sexually mature individuals on an annual basis, continuing until the seed / propagule bank is exhausted.]	Expand Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius) removal activities from 2020-2023 target areas to include the entire property	C	We removed Scotch broom from across the property, with a focus on the 2 km of coastal bluffs and forest, based on the Scotch broom management zones mapped in Year 1. We are continuing to invest in our ropes program to be able to reach previously inaccessible broom populations in sensitive steep slope areas, and are now able to have up to 3 technicians working with ropes simultaneously. /// We removed other target introduced species across the property, with a focus on the Chrystal Creek watershed, the Nuts'a'maat Forage Forest, the former Mill Site, and the 2 km of coastal bluffs and forest. /// We swept the property and nearby forests for Tansy Ragwort on several occasions over the course of July and August.
				Remove high priority invasive species across the property, including holly (Ilex aquifolium), blackberries (Rubus spp.), yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus) and hawthorne (Crataegus monogyna)	C	
				Continue to remove tansy ragwort (Jacobaea vulgaris) from across the property and nearby roadsides	C	

		MONITOR and maintain restored areas at the Millard Learning Centre	Peform annual monitoring and maintenance activities to ensure long-term success of restoration projects	Monitoring protocols and repeat photography carried out on an annual basis across all active project sites at the Millard Learning Centre, contributing 3 years to ongoing data sets, generating insights for management, and providing opportunities for necessary maintenance.	Perform detailed vegetation monitoring protocol for the Phase 1 area of the Chrystal Creek watershed restoration program, and use results to inform revegetation treatments for Phases 2 and 3	-	After analyzing Phase 1 vegetation monitoring for the first two years of data collection, we produced a technical report (see below) and determined that additional annual monitoring at this site is no longer necessary. We intend to repeat these plots on 5-10 year intervals. /// We monitored deer exclosure and forest garden plots for Year 3. /// We completed repeat photography for the property for Year 3.
					Continue annual monitoring of deer exclosure plots and forest garden plots according to specialized GCA monitoring protocols	C	
					Complete annual repeat photography at established points across property to document the results of habitat conservation and restoration efforts	C	
		DETECT Species at Risk at the Millard Learning Centre	Perform targeted surveys to detect select Species at Risk	Presence / absence of sharp-tailed snakes (Contia tenuis) along 2 km of suitable habitat at the Millard Learning Centre determined with reasonable confidence. Spread of breeding populations of northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across restored / constructed wetland ecosystems at the Millard Learning Centre mapped and documented over a 3 year period.	Obtain necessary permits and collaborate with the Islands Trust Conservancy to monitor ACOs in order to detect sharp-tailed snake (Contia tenuis) presence along 2 km of suitable coastal habitat	C	We monitored sharp-tailed snake ACOs at the MLC in both spring and fall, but did not detect any snakes in 2025. /// We completed and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs across the property for Year 3. We confirmed egg masses for red-legged frogs and Pacific tree frogs. We also observed a variety of wetland-associated birds using the new wetlands, including hooded mergansers, wood ducks, mallards, and Wilson's snipe.
					Continue annual acousitc, visual, and egg-mass surveys for northern red-legged frogs (Rana aurora) across artificial, natural, and newly constructed wetland habitats at the Millard Learning Centre	C	
		DOCUMENT and share results from project monitoring activities	Publish brief technical papers that communicate key practical insights derived from project activities to a students & practitioner audience	At least three brief (3-8 page) technical papers produced and disseminated, highlighting the key results and outcomes of 6+ years of monitoring activities across a range of restoration projects at the Millard Learning Centre.	Produce brief technical paper communicating outcomes of Chrystal Creek restoration project activities and 4 years of monitoring	C	We published 3 reports to the "Knowledge Hub" on our website (https://galianoconservancy.ca/knowledge-hub/): "Monitoring Vegetation and Revegetation Response to Rough and Loose Soil Treatment in an Agriculturally-Degraded Watershed"; "Context-Dependent Effects of Deer Exclusion Across Environmental and Disturbance Gradients on Galiano Island, British Columbia"; and "Nuts’a’maat Forage Forest Scaled Monitoring 2025." The first paper was drafted by GCA staff, with support from external reviewers. The second two papers were drafted by undergraduate students from the University of Victoria, with supervision from GCA staff and faculty from the University of Victoria.
					Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 6 years of monitoring deer exclosure plots across a ranage of ecosystem types	C	
					Produce brief technical paper summarizing the results of 9 years of monitoring forest garden sites using a wide range of criteria related to biodiversity, productivity, and social benefit	C	

Matson Lands

1-819



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: CAT24-1-819

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Matson Conservation Area

Project Leader Name: Vanessa Brownlee

Name of Organization: Habitat Acquisition Trust

Date of Report: April 15 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization: Habitat Acquisition Trust

Contact Information: vanessa@hat.bc.ca

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

-HAT's Habitat Restoration Field Crew spent 7 days working at Matson Conservation Area (MCA) during the 2025 field season. Most of their work focused on invasive species removal, with special attention paid to removal and data collection inside the deer enclosures that were constructed in 2024. Rapid site assessment methods, developed in 2024, were trialed in 2025, providing a representative sample of species composition at the site.

- Planting efforts in 2025 included Garry oak seedlings donated by the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS), and KEXMIN (barestem desert parsley) seedlings that were propagated by Satinflower Nurseries.

- HAT hosted a restoration workshop in collaboration with the Compost Education Centre on April 11th, which focused on Garry oak meadow restoration, the cultural significance of the restoration work, and the importance of planting native species. This event was well attended with 10 participants, many of whom has never visited the MCA before.

- Discussions have been ongoing with the West Bay Residents Association (WBRA) and the Township of Esquimalt to create interpretive signage about Matson at the end of Garrett Place. This process is ongoing, but HAT has been supporting WBRA as they engage with the community about the idea.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

- This project has provided HAT (the landowner) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (lead covenant holder) with an updated Management Plan for the MCA. The original Management Plan was created in 2004, so this update allowed HAT to assess the site's current condition, evaluate the progress of active stewardship efforts, collect input from valued partners, and create updated management goals that reflect current relationships and environmental conditions.
- This project also provided significant ecological improvements at the site, including the development of seeding and planting techniques that resulted in an increase in desired native species for the ecosystem, increased knowledge of species that are naturally suited to the site, deer fencing techniques that have proven relatively successful with preventing deer grazing, and invasive species management results that will continue to inform how HAT approaches invasive species removal at the MCA and other sites.
- Methods for rapid site assessment were developed, with a framework for measuring the diversity and abundance of focal plant communities at the MCA over time. Now established, these methods can be used to conduct rapid surveys of species composition at other sites with similar meadow ecosystems.
- Ongoing community engagement efforts have led to an increase in volunteer recruitment for the Matson Mattocks. Improved signage, which explains restoration work being done at the site, has also led to an overall increase in positive interactions with the public at the MCA.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

- Some seedlings that were planted did not survive, particularly *Arbutus* (*Pacific madrone*). This could have been due to this species' sensitivity to the difficult site conditions, including wet areas, deer grazing, and impacts from climate change. Another likely factor was the age of the plants when planted – more well-established saplings performed better, while smaller seedlings were predated by deer.
- Some invasive species at this site were particularly difficult to remove because of their location growing out of steep rocky slopes. In these circumstances, the project allowed us to trial herbicide application, which has proven effective and will continue to be a part of management activities moving forward.
- This project also provided ample lessons learned about creating positive human interactions at an urban restoration site. We found that increased signage helped in this regard, as members of the public passing by could learn about the cultural history of the site, the restoration work being done, and the native species HAT is trying to promote.
- Camping at this site continues to be an ongoing challenge, but this project helped HAT determine the best ways to work toward our concurrent goals of harm reduction and protecting sensitive ecosystems. We found that regular garbage cleanup, carried out by the Matson Mattocks stewardship group, helped discourage overnight camping, as did planting caged seedlings in open areas that were potential camping spots. When camping occurred, HAT staff posted notices within the park asking people to leave the site and explaining its ecological significance. We found that when these notices were posted, they were always respected.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

- The HAT Field Crew spent 7 days working at the MCA this year, during which they frequently communicate with members of the public who use the raised stairs to walk through the Conservation Area. In these interactions, the Field Crew share information on the restoration work being done and the sensitive ecosystems at the site.
- HAT co-hosted a workshop with the Compost Education Center on Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration on April 11th. The workshop had 10 attendees.
- The Matson Mattocks volunteer stewardship group regularly engage with members of the public visiting the conservation area, on average 2-5 individuals engage with them during their weekly volunteer work parties, 80 to 200 people learned about the project in Year 3.
- On August 18, Tarrin Sam from Indigenous Prosperity Centre (IPC), Gavin Sam (HAT staff), members of the Songhees Marine Team, and an archaeology representative from Millennia Research spent time with Songhees and Esquimalt youth at MCA. Topics covered included the unique habitats, species, and cultural sites at the MCA. Approximately 15-20 youth were in attendance. A video of this day was filmed by Dylan Newstead, and although it has not been approved for public release yet, it has been included in the supplementary documents for this report.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

- HCTF's contribution is acknowledged to the attendees of our Matson restoration events with ____ volunteers participating in Year 3 and communicated to our volunteer stewardship group members
- Temporary signage was placed on the fenced exclosures to inform passersby that the restoration work is funded by HCTF
- HCTF's contribution was highlighted at the Compost Education Centre workshop on April 11 and on the blog post about the workshop here: <https://hat.bc.ca/blog/workshop-mca2026>

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

- A press release entitled "Restoration efforts protect critical habitats in the Matson Conservation Area" was published on March 31st. The press release was picked up by the Victoria News: <https://vicnews.com/2026/04/02/esquimalt-garry-oak-meadow-work-funding-extended-through-2029>
- Project discussed on HAT's website blog and newsletter: <https://hat.bc.ca/blog/restoration-efforts-protect-critical-habitats-in-the-matson-conservation-area-press-release>
- This project is discussed and promoted monthly in the Swallow's Nest newsletter, for residents of the neighbouring Swallow's Landing condominium building.

5. PHOTOS



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Photo 1: HAT Restoration Technician Maya Irwin removes invasive species from Matson Conservation Area. Photo credit: Chelsea Nuez.

Photo 2: HAT Field Crew removes English ivy from steep rocky slope at Matson Conservation Area.

Photo 3: View of Victoria Inner Harbour and Garry oak trees from Matson Conservation Area.

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

No capital assets purchased.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 1: HAT Restoration Technician Maya Irwin removes invasive species from Matson Conservation Area. Photo credit: Chelsea Nuez.

Photo 2: HAT Field Crew removes English ivy from steep rocky slope at Matson Conservation Area.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 3: View of Victoria Inner Harbour and Garry oak trees from Matson Conservation Area.



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting Matson Conservation Area

Project Number: 1-819

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP, NS)	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Matson Conservation Area ("MCA")	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 MCA Restoration Plan (developed with funding support through 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-651)	1. Continue to apply appropriate treatment strategies on targeted invasive plant species following best practices that threaten biodiversity and native plant germination and survival	1. All major infestations of woody invasive plant species (English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom) to be successfully treated with mechanical control (manual removal) and invasive species cover reduced by 75% 2. Reduce the impact of invasive grasses on native GOE meadow and assoc. pollinator habitat by mechanically removing targeted invasive grasses (such as Orchard Grass and Velvet Grass) from open canopy Garry Oak meadow. Invasive grass thatch in meadow to be removed from 25% of MCA 3. Properly dispose of any soil, seeds, and plant parts removed during treatment, and clean tools/equipment	Matson Mattocks stewardship group will continue to volunteer mechanical control (manual removal) of invasive plant species, and seasonal invasive grass thatch reduction at weekly work events	C	The Matson Mattocks volunteer stewardship group continues to host weekly work parties where they carry out restoration tasks. HAT staff provides guidance, support, and materials.	
				Consult with experts on implementation of appropriate treatment strategy using alternative and/or innovative restoration methods in addition to manual removal (e.g. solarization, smothering, continued strategic herbicide application)	C	Smothering, carried out by the Matson Mattocks, proved relatively successful in managing invasive grasses at the site, with minimal re-growth. Strategic herbicide application also continued to be effective at managing invasive species growing on difficult to access rocky slopes within the site, particularly English ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>). HAT plans to continue both restoration techniques in 2026.	
				HAT restoration crew employed annually to carry out MCA Restoration Plan, this includes: treating priority invasive species with manual removal and reduction of seasonal invasive grass thatch	C	HAT Restoration Field Crew spent 7 days on site in year 3 carrying out restoration tasks, including invasive species removal, seeding, planting, and	
		2. Install additional native plants; strengthen existing native plant populations, and augment climate-adaptive and ecosystem-appropriate native species	Enhance native plant biodiversity and abundance, promote ecosystem climate resilience, and prevent the re-establishment of invasive plant species. Native plant species cover of planting area to be increased by 25%	Annual planting of nursery-cultivated native seedlings (such as Garry Oak and Arbutus) to help ensure the successful establishment, survival, and generational succession of key species that struggle to self-germinate naturally.	C	Planting and seeding of the Matson Conservation Area has continued, carried out by Matson Mattocks HAT staff. 10 additional Garry oak seedlings were donated by volunteers and the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) and planted in 2025. Farewell-to-spring (<i>Clarkia amoena</i>) seeds were also purchased, and will be planted in the Spring of 2026 by the Matson	
				Annual Autumn sowing of native plant seeds. Variety and quantity of seed sown to be determined based on ongoing project monitoring, and observed outcomes of 2021-2022 seedings	C	Mattocks in areas where invasive bulb removal has left bare soil. Seeds sown in the two large deer exclosures in 2024 will be monitored for germination in the Spring of 2026, as recommended by a biologist, because many seedlings can be quite small in their first year and easily missed.	
				Monitor percent survival rate of planted seedlings and percent cover of planting area	C	Methods for rapid site assessment were implemented by the Field Crew. These	
		3. Improve quality and increase quantity of potential pollinator habitat	Increase on-site stock of potential native food sources, nesting materials, and sources of shelter for pollinators to ameliorate pollinator population health; guided by results of 2022 pollinator survey conducted by Pollinator Partnership Canada.	Continue to consult with pollinator experts to evaluate potential habitat and to develop plan for making improvements to polliantor habitat. Use data from 2022 seasonal pollinator surveys to inform plant seedling and seed selection for 2023 installations	C	The 2022 Pollinator Report continues to inform the selection of native plants for planting and seeding at Matson Conservation Area, as well as restoration prescriptions for the site. In 2025, species such as KEXMIN (barestem desert parsley/ <i>Lomatium nudicaule</i>) were planted, and farewell-to-spring seeds were purchased.	
				Install additional native pollinator plants through annual planting and seeding in areas newly cleared of invasive species	C		
		4. Protect both naturally occuring and newly installed native plant seedlings (purchased and planted with funding support of the 2020-2023 HCTF Land Stewardship grant 1-651) from deer grazing	Allow native species to reach stage of maturity where they do not require protective fencing from deer grazing in order to survive independently. Survival allows for generational succession of species such as Garry Oak and Arbutus, as well as the enhancement of native shrubs and wildflowers. Protective fencing is necessary for young plants to become fully established without being disrupted by deer grazing. At least 90% of planted seedlings survive to at least 3 years.	Beginning of Year 1: Install 100 feet of additional steel wire-mesh fencing to priority native plants and and to sensitive areas	C	Fencing installed by the HAT Field Crew in 2024, which included an inner "high-vis" fence created with reflective tape, has proved very effective in discouraging deer grazing at the open meadow areas of the site. This technique creates a visual deterrent for deer and discourages them from jumping inside the exclosure. The HAT Field Crew continued to carry out fencing repairs as needed throughout the 2025 field season, and monitored species presence within the exclosures. 2025 observations showed promising native species germination, with some minimal invasive species re-growth that had to be removed. Recommendations from contracted biologists indicate that monitoring in the 2026 season will be important to determine success, as seedlings' second-year	
				End of Year 1: assess effectiveness of existing fencing and adjust future fencing strategy as necessary. Assessment of fencing efficacy to be repeated annually	C		
				Years 2 & 3: continue to install protective fencing around individual plants that require protection, in the manner assessed most effective the preceding year; expanding height and diameter where necessary	C		
		5. Monitor restoration treatment effectiveness, utilizing qualitative (photopoint) and quantitative data collection methods and reporting results at the end of 3 years.	1. Continue utilizing our effectiveness monitoring program, both quantitative and qualitative data collected will provide valuable information to gauge the project's success over time. Data evaluation will inform adaptive management strategies and priorities. 2. Monitoring data assists HAT in communicating with partners, funders and other stakeholders about the progress and importance of the ecosystem restoration project. Having a robust data set will help engage a variety of people and organizations in the work being done.	Contract plant biologists to conduct updated vegetation inventories using best practices identified by experts to update previous 2005 baseline vegetation report. Surveys to be conducted Spring 2023	C	Biologist Kristen Miskelly completed an updated vascular plant survey for Matson Conservation Area in 2023. This list will be used to inform future management decisions, and will be added to through future community engagement activities such as Bioblitz events.	
				HAT Staff and crew conduct ongoing photopoint monitoring and data collection before and after treatments, documenting effectiveness of treatment strategies. Effectiveness will be measured by percent cover of native species both generally and specific to pollinator habitat prescriptions, as well as percent cover (reduction) and re-germination rates of invasive species	C	HAT staff and the Matson Mattocks have conducted annual photo point monitoring and data collection before and after restoration treatments at the site. The Field Crew's photo point monitoring and site observations have been compiled in report form.	
				Documentation of data and analysis will be presented in report form in 2026.	C	Rapid site assessment methods have been developed and carried out by the HAT Field Crew.	
		6. Continue to organize biannual meetings of the Matson Conservation Area Management Advisory Group (MAG) re-established under previous grant 1-651.	Management Advisory Group will meet 2x/year to coordinate implementation of the MCA Management Plan and MCA Restoration Plan	Coordinate biannual meetings of the Management Advisory Group to seek feedback and advice on management issues, community concerns, and progress and direction on management and restoration plans.	C	The 2026 Management Advisory Group meeting was held on March 30, 2026. The meeting was well-attended, with 9 attendees. 2025 management activities at the site were discussed, solutions to management challenges were brainstormed, and plans were made for stewardship work in 2026.	
				HAT provides MAG with annual summary progress reports	C		

	Management of the Matson Conservation Area will continue to take place collaboratively through consultation and discussion with multiple community partners, including the representatives from the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations	7. Engage directly with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and communities on issues of cultural importance, land management, and collaborative activities	1. Opportunities will be created for engagement with Indigenous community members on the land, leading to a mutual increase in knowledge on subjects such as traditional plant harvesting, as well as other traditional eco-cultural practices.	Establish a relationship with Chief and Council with both Songhees and Esquimalt Nations through annual presentations by invitation	IC	Relationship building efforts continue, and HAT staff turnover in the last year means that this relationship-building is at its early stages.
			2. Indigenous land stewardship practices will be enabled at Matson Conservation Area in partnership with Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.	Facilitate an invitation for community members to visit MCA to participate in eco-cultural practices, and provide appropriate compensation for individuals to alleviate financial barriers to participation (at least 2 engagement events per year);	C	At the water's edge, erosion is putting a population of KEXMIN (barestem desert parsley) at risk. After this concern was identified, HAT was able to work with the Songhees Nation and Satinflower Nurseries to harvest KEXMIN seeds, propagate them, and plant them inside the deer exclosures at Matson in the Fall of 2025.
			3. Create opportunities for Songhees and Esquimalt Nation community members to engage in stewardship	Invite representatives from Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to join MAG or contribute expertise on management priorities at MCA	C	On August 18, Tarrin Sam from Indigenous Prosperity Centre (IPC) and Gavin Sam (HAT staff) coordinated a day spent with Songhees and Esquimalt Youth at the MCA. Presenters included HAT staff, members of the Songhees Marine
		8. Adapt and update Matson Conservation Area Management Plan and Restoration Plan	Updates to Management Plan will include Traditional Ecological Knowledge and practices of the First Nations in whose territory the MCA is situated (Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations), in the cases where such inclusion is consented to by the Nations. Updates will also incorporate climate change adaptation plans, and other relevant updates based on advances in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration. The Restoration Plan, which informs the techniques, priorities and strategies of field work, will be informed by the principles in the Management Plan and adapted accordingly.	Collaborate with knowledge-keepers to seek recommendations about integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices into MCA Management Plan and activities through at least 2 site visits and discussions per year;	C	A final copy of the 2026 Management Plan for Matson Conservation Area has been produced, with input from valued partners and experts. This updated plan has allowed HAT to create new collaborative management goals for the site that reflect current relationships and site conditions. This plan is a working document, and the project partners have all agreed to continue updating this plan at regular intervals to reflect changes in relationships, best management practices, and site conditions.
				Collaborate with partners and experts in the field of oak and associated ecosystem restoration to seek recommendations about most current best management practices and climate change adaptation strategies, and their application to the MCA.	C	
				Update the MCA Management Plan with synthesized information, and extrapolate new information recommendations to the MCA Restoration Plan. Updated Management and Restoration Plans will be finalized in collaboration with the MAG.	C	

Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2

1-820



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 1-820

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2

Project Leader Name: Andy Blackburn

Name of Organization: Denman Conservancy Association

Date of Report: 9 April 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

DCA Lands Manager and 10 volunteers erected 6 small restoration exclosure fenced areas in the Settlement Lands, protecting regenerating shrubs (huckleberry, Oregon grape, oceanspray) and tree saplings (cedar, arbutus, grand fir) from deer browse. Sites were selected following species survey conducted by DCA members. Native meadow plant seeds were purchased for Spring & Fall 2026 sowing in restoration areas.

Improved and updated signage was designed, printed and installed at trailheads across the complex, including public access maps, permitted uses and boundary marking.

Invasive species control continued across the complex with contractors & volunteers manually controlling Scotch broom and English holly spread. Much work was focused on a former log-landing area in preparation for a restoration project proposed for 2026.

Volunteers monitored fire risk and for presence of American Bullfrogs across the complex throughout the summer months, contributing well over 100 hours of volunteer time.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Over the 3 years of this project, much was achieved, with a large focus on the recently secured Raven Woods & Wetlands. A Baseline Biological Survey & report was carried out, along with outreach and discussion with K'òmoks FN around input and potential future collaboration. This greatly informed the drafting of a comprehensive Management Plan for the protected area, recently approved by the DCA Board & wider community. Infrastructure to facilitate responsible public access to the area was designed, constructed, and installed, including information and educational signage, creek crossing, and bench.

Trailheads and public trails were improved with better access and signage across the Conservation Complex, providing better opportunities for public access to these protected areas. This provided responsible public access to areas of the complex, whilst protecting sensitive habitat by limited potential incursion into other areas.

Restoration projects were initiated in 2 protected areas; Winter Wren Wood & Settlement Lands, where degraded areas (through vehicle access and logging, respectively) were protected and replanted, allowing the regeneration of native vegetation and improving control of introduced species. These areas have already exhibited significant regeneration, and with continued monitoring and protection will continue back on a trajectory toward their native ecosystem types.

Stewardship activities to assist species and ecosystems at risk continued, with invasive species control throughout the complex, including manual removal of invasive plant species and ongoing monitoring for invasive amphibians. Education & outreach activities were also undertaken as part of this objective, raising awareness within the community and reducing possible risk of newly introduced species.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

Relationship building and meaningful collaboration with Indigenous Communities is an ongoing process that takes time and is a challenge to fit within grant funding timelines. I had hoped to have had more collaboration on some of the objectives within this project, however we are grateful for the initial relationship and trust building that has taken place with productive discussion and data-sharing and will continue to work on this going forward.

Estimating future costs, especially concerning time involved or materials prices, for projects up to 3 years in advance can be difficult. Including some room for manoeuvre within the budget and careful timeline planning is a valuable consideration.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

DCA outreach table at weekly summer markets (May – Oct) featured information about new trail network development, fire monitoring, wetland stewardship and invasive species control. Board members signed up new volunteers for work bees.

Invasive species market display in collaboration with Denman Island Pesticide Free Committee highlighting invasive species removal efforts, native plant planting, and how to get involved.

Interpretive and educational signage describing restoration projects, and wetland ecosystem information, for example, were installed at various locations within the conservation complex.

Updates to DCA website, social media pages and public noticeboard outlining ongoing projects.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

Regular DCA newsletter articles in the island paper updating the community on ongoing projects eg. restoration at Winter Wren Wood & Settlement Lands, American Bullfrog monitoring, invasive species control.

Summer market outreach May-Oct 2025.

Monthly reports to Lands Committee & DCA Board of Directors.

DCA Annual General Meeting Feb 2026 report and presentation.

Communication with Islands Trust Conservancy (as Covenant Holder on DCA lands) regarding restoration work at Winter Wren Wood & Settlement Lands.

HCTF recognition included on newly installed signage on restoration areas in Settlement Lands, and wetlands interpretive sign at Raven Woods & Wetlands.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

Newsletter; Dec 2025 'On the Land' article (attached)



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

DCA website; denmanconservancy.org

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

- 1. SL Restoration.jpg** – volunteers working on installing exclosure area around regenerating vegetation at former log-landing area in the Settlement Lands.
- 2. SL Restoration.jpg** - volunteers working on installing exclosure area around regenerating vegetation at former log-landing area in the Settlement Lands.
- 3. Restoration signage.jpg** – Sign installed on restoration exclosure area.
- 4. Raven trail steps.jpg** – Trail improvements on steep section of Raven W&W public trail.
- 5. Trailhead signage.jpg** – Improved trailhead signage at Raven W&W trail.
- 6. Holly follow-up work.jpg** – Volunteer cutting regrowth from previously cut English holly stump in Central Park.
- 7. Boulder delivery.jpg** – Volunteer delivering boulder for Winter Wren restoration project.
- 8. Broom control.jpg** – Cut piles of Scotch broom in Settlement Lands in preparation for restoration project.

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

n/a



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



Photo 1 and 2: SL Restoration.jpg - volunteers working on installing exclosure area around regenerating vegetation at former log-landing area in the Settlement Lands.



Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP,	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Central Denman Conservation Complex: Phase 2		Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Management planning for newly-protected RWW conservation area undertaken through surveying to inform stewardship activities and drafting of Management Plan.	Biological Baseline report produced to inform management planning & stewardship of RWW. Consultation & collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation on management activities and planning, eg. Naming & language, ethnobotanical survey.	Contract professional Biologist to conduct Baseline survey of RWW to facilitate management planning.		Meeting w/ K'omoks FN Environmental referrals Analyst to discuss collaboration & data-sharing. No site visit/survey yet; ongoing data sharing.
					K'ómoks First Nation outreach & organizing of visit(s) to collaborate on naming, management planning, and conduct possible ethnobotanical survey at RWW	IC	
		Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Construction & installation of trailhead Info Kiosk with maps, access signage, cultural info etc., to educate public on importance of conservation area and ensure compliance with management regulations.		
					Construction & installation of bench & railing at wetland viewpoint to provide public access to wetland view, whilst preventing incursion into sensitive wetland habitat		
					Design, printing and installation of printed metal interpretive signage highlighting importance of wetlands, species at risk found there, climate change implications at wetland viewpoint		
		Conduct high-priority management planning; ensure long-term biodiversity protection & sustainable human use within Raven Woods & Wetlands (RWW); a newly protected area within the Conservation Complex.	Construction & installation of trails, structures & interpretive signage within Raven Woods & Wetlands to manage human activity and prevent incursion into ecologically sensitive areas	Installation of trailhead Information Kiosk, viewpoint bench & railing, creek crossing and interpretive signage, and clear trail network within new RWW conservation area.	Lands Manager coordinates 4 volunteer trail-building work bees to create safe and clearly-defined trail for public access through conservation area, protecting native flora & fauna by reducing incursion into other areas by foot traffic		
					Construction & installation of low-impact creek crossing, using cedar logs & metal walkway, to mitigate damage from foot traffic already occuring and provide safe access to northern portion of proposed loop trail.		
		Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir stands, recovering forest areas)	Trailhead improvements throughout Conservation Complex clarifying public accessibility and limiting potential incursion into ecologically sensitive areas.	Improved signage designed & installed and trail clearing work at 6 trailheads across complex. Metal walkways installed at 3 trailheads where deep ditches make for unsafe footing. Improved signage installed to mitigate ongoing compliance issues eg. Dogs, hunting.	DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install 3 metal 'catwalk' walkways across roadside ditches at new and existing trailheads.		Updated trailhead and trail signage designed, printed and installed at Raven W&W trailheads, info kiosk, and Settlement Lands trails. Signs will be further updated in future if we receive additional input from K'omoks FN.
					DCA Lands Manager & volunteers install newly printed trailhead signage indicating public access, naming, compliance, including First Nations language & naming in collaboration with K'ómoks First Nation.	C	
					DCA Lands Manager organizes 6 trail clearing volunteer work bees to clearly indicate trailhead locations and provide safe access while protecting native vegetation.		
		Protect sensitive habitat from damage with management aids in areas of concern for native flora & fauna across Conservation Complex (Wetland & Riparian areas, old-growth and mature Coastal Douglas-Fir stands, recovering forest areas)	Protect against wildfire by encouraging seasonally-appropriate access to Conservation Complex lands & providing means for safe disposal of flammable materials.	Volunteer coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew to carry out daily monitoring in high fire-risk areas throughout extreme fire hazard season (June-September). In collaboration with volunteer Fire Department, fireproof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by fire monitoring crew at main property entrances.	Coordinator organizes volunteer fire monitoring crew for daily fire monitoring through fire season (Y1-3) and updates faded fire compliance signage at trailheads.	C	Fire monitoring crew carried out daily monitoring of high-use areas from Jun - Oct 2025.
					Fire-proof cigarette-butt receptacles are maintained by monitoring crew throughout fire season. (Y1-3)	C	Receptacles regularly monitoried and emptied throughout year. 1 missing receptacle replaced.
		Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Small-scale restoration of native shrub & herb layer species & Indigenous food plants within CDF regenerating areas	Deer exclosure fencing (10m x 10m) erected in heavily-browsed area within complex. Replanting & seeding of native tree and shrub species within exclosure.	DCA Lands manager & volunteers conduct species survey, inviting K'ómoks FN to collaborate, & erect 10x10m fencing at selected heavily-browsed site.	C	6 restoration fenced areas installed within previously-logged area of Settlement Lands in Spring 2026. Species survey and site selection carried out by DCA members.
					DCA Lands manager coordinates volunteer replanting & seeding of trees and shrubs in fenced area. Native trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as necessary.	C	Sites selected already had regenerating trees and shrubs, so no additional planting of shrubs. Native seed purchased for fall & spring sowing.
					Lands Manager & volunteers conduct Y2 & Y3 species survey of deer exclosure, fence maintenance & replanting as necessary.	C	Ongoing monitoring and surveys of species present will continue, with potential for additonal seeding nect year.

		Undertake small-scale restoration of native flora within degraded & recovering Coastal Douglas-Fir forest areas to encourage native species regeneration and mitigate risk of climate change impacts on biodiversity.	Restoration of former parking area in Winter Wren Wood, now inaccessible to vehicles, through replanting & protection of native species	Site-appropriate native trees & shrubs are planted and caged for deer-browse protection to restore former parking area. Descriptive signage is designed and installed to explain restoration project to visitors.	Lands Manager & volunteers plant and cage 20 - 30 native trees & shrubs in former parking area. Trees & shrubs donated by community members, some purchased as necessary.	C	Restoration area regularly monitored; most shrubs planted in Y2 survived and growing well. Natural vegetation regeneration taking place.
					Lands Manager designs and installs signage indicating & explaining restoration activities in area.		Watering of planted species took place throughout summer months, with 90% survival rate.
					Coordinator carries out weekly watering of planted trees & shrubs during establishment period in summer months.	C	
		Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Enhance wetland & upland habitats by restoring native plant diversity through manual removal of invasive species (Scotch broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel, Canada Thistle, St.John's Wort, Reed Canarygrass).	Coordinator organizes 600 volunteer hours + 230 paid hours to remove invasive plants throughout Conservation Complex. Treated areas are mapped and photographed. GPS locations of cut holly trees are marked, & follow-up treatments in Y2&3 to cut resprouting shoots. GPS locations of Daphne removed are mapped to monitor spread throughout complex. Completed work is documented with photographs & maps of treated areas to guide continual management efforts. Previous mapping of treated areas is updated for continued tracking of progress.	Carry out 5 volunteer work-bees each year + hire contractor for 60h per year to continue efforts to remove Invasive Scotch Broom, English Holly, Daphne Spurge-Laurel (and other species) across the Conservation Complex (Y 1-3)	C	2 contractors hired to carry out 60hrs Scotch broom removal at Settlement Lands, focused on Butterfly Reserve restoration area.
					Hire contractor to remove min. 100 English Holly & Daphne Spurge-Laurel plants (an increasing invasive problem) throughout complex, marking GPS locations of plants removed. GPS locations are mapped for ongoing management.		
					DCA Land Manager & volunteers use GPS locations to monitor previously cut Holly & Daphne stumps & remove resprouting shoots.	C	Land Manager & volunteers spent 62hrs revisiting previously cut English holly stumps checking and removing any regrowth across the complex throughout the year.
		Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue monitoring program for early detection of invasive American Bullfrogs throughout complex, following continued reports of probable presence & professional survey recommendations.	Volunteer working group is coordinated to carry out bi-weekly monitoring for American Bullfrog in perennial Lake/wetland habitats within the Complex. Outreach & information materials are updated with improved content following 2021 professional survey for American Bullfrogs on Denman.	Lands Manager to coordinate volunteer monitoring group (15-20 persons) yearly through email communication, data collection/record keeping and mapping, monitoring 12-15 waterbodies across Denman complex.	C	Volunteer monitoring group of 10 monitored multiple wetlands and waterways across the complex totalling more than 90 hours Jun - Sept 2025. No bullfrog sightings reported this year.
					Lands Manager updates American Bullfrog outreach & website material with improved information (eg. Identification techniques, lifecycle info etc.) following recommended actions from 2021 professional American Bullfrog survey.	C	
							DCA website updated with most recent reports and information.
		Continue stewardship activities to enhance or maintain populations of Species at Risk, including Taylor's Checkerspot (SARA Endangered); Little brown bat (Endangered); Dun Skipper (BC Red List); Western Pondhawk (BC Blue List); N. Red-legged frog (BC Blue List); Olive-sided flycatcher (BC Blue List); C.Nighthawk (SARA Threatened)	Continue habitat maintenance for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (TC) & other invertebrate pollinators by controlling ingrowing vegetation & increasing density of food & nectar plants for larvae & adult TCs and other species.	Ingrowing trees & shrubs (0-1m tall) are removed from Butterfly Reserve Transect immediate area, to retain sunny areas for native meadow species used as nectar & larval host plants for TC. Where possible removed trees/shrubs are relocated as part of small-scale native species restoration projects elsewhere in Complex.	Lands Manager coordinates 1 volunteer work bee each year (Y1-3) to remove ingrowing trees & shrubs in Butterfly transect area.	C	Volunteer work bee removed ingrowing Scotch broom from Butterfly transect area. Approx. 5 Douglas fir saplings cut in immediate transect area.
					Healthy and appropriate-sized trees/shrubs potted up for relocation to restoration areas by volunteers.	IC	No trees potted up and relocated this year.

Ryder Creek

2-764



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 2-764

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Ryder Creek

Project Leader Name: Joanne Neilson

Name of Organization: Fraser Valley Conservancy

Date of Report: March 31, 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

This past year enabled us to complete our 3-year goal of gaining a better understanding of this property so we can enhance and protect its important fish and wildlife values.

This year, we created a *Ryder Creek Management Plan* for the property, based on the *Ryder Creek Property Baseline Documentation Report* created in the previous year. This management plan was reviewed by the FVC's Habitat Protection Committee (HPC) members, and they provided expert feedback which was then incorporated into the document. The draft management plan was submitted and approved by the FVC's Board of Directors in the fall of 2025. Both the *Ryder Creek Property Baseline Documentation Report* and the *Ryder Creek Management Plan* were submitted to the Sto:lo Referrals Office on December 8, 2025 for their thoughts. No response has been received to date. The plans have been published on our updated Ryder Creek Property webpage:

<https://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/programs/ryder-creek/>

We also undertook habitat enhancement work on the property this year. The work focused on 1500 square meters of area along Ryder Creek's riparian zone and the south end of the property. Himalayan blackberry, Japanese knotweed, and English ivy were targeted. The Knotweed control being done through a qualified contractor and was subsidized through the Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society's Knot On My Property cost-share pilot program. The other species were managed manually by FVC staff.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Willow cuttings, taken on site, were used to revegetate approximately 100 square meters of the area cleared to stabilize the bank and shade the creek. An Invasive Species Management (ISM) Plan was drafted in January of 2026 to guide future ISM efforts. In March of 2026, the property boundaries were surveyed to provide clarity for the neighbours and for future management activities.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).

Through this project, the FVC was able to create a Baseline Documentation Report to understand the current conditions found on the property. The research needed for this document allowed us to learn much about the property itself, its natural values, the surrounding area and history. In gathering this information, we spoke to a number of experts and did background research. We also undertook initial surveys, including of the vegetation, and established photo points at strategic locations. We've identified and marked the property's large trees, mapped invasive species, installed property line stakes, and now have a better understanding of the landscape which we didn't have before. This baseline information will act as a guide to compare to long term and help us understand any changes observed. This information has also allowed us to better understand the property's natural values which we aim to protect and will be critical to managing the property in the future.

With this understanding, the FVC was able to create a Management Plan, which will guide our management of it in both the short and long term. The plan lists the natural values to be protected including the watercourses and waterbodies, vegetation and large trees, habitat connectivity and habitat potential for species at risk. It also lists and ranks the threats to the natural values of the property. Importantly, a clear management goal was established for the property: "The goal in managing the property is to protect and maintain the values of the aquatic and terrestrial habitats in perpetuity," with corresponding objectives that will be used to fulfill that goal. The Management Plan identified a need for further planning on specific aspects to best reach these objectives. This gives the FVC direction for the future and will allow us to strategically pursue funding opportunities to protect and maintain the habitats found on the property.

The FVC reached out to the local First Nations early in the process. We were advised to wait until our Management Plan was complete to submit for their review. We've done that but have not received any response to date. Despite direct feedback, this project did allow the FVC to learn much about the local history, including that of the First Nations, and has opened dialogue opportunity. Furthermore, the FVC now has an Indigenous Engagement Policy that will guide how we engage the Nations regarding the property going forward. We have included the following objective in the Management Plan: Support continued use and protection of areas of sacred and cultural significance by First Nations as per Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution Act 4 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The project also had a habitat enhancement component. Invasive species were identified as the top threat the property's natural values. The FVC dug out Himalayan blackberry, cut English ivy from trees and hired a contractor to treat knotweed. Some of the area was revegetated using cuttings from willows



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

taken on site. This work will be a multi-year commitment, but the first steps have been taken. These efforts will eventually reestablish natural systems on the property and provide quality habitat for many species. Ryder Creek itself will also receive a positive benefit from this work within its riparian zone. The creation of a formal ISM plan will guide future efforts as they continue, in order to ensure they are done efficiently and effectively. Aquatic habitat restoration ideas were identified for this property, but the risk associated with them need to be fully evaluated and were beyond the scope of this project. The area is geotechnically unstable and over the 3 years of this project two atmospheric river events resulted in landslides in the area. We will continue to work with the Fraser Valley Regional District and the Ts'elxweyeqw Tribe to explore opportunities for this area to be converted to uninhabited conservation lands as it becomes increasingly dangerous for the few remaining landowners.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

The impact of climate change, specifically atmospheric river events, on this property was poorly understood prior to this project. We knew it was a high-risk area but now, based on feedback from experts and regional staff we have a much better understanding of the scope of risk and have included it in our management planning process.

Our initial proposal included undertaking in-stream habitat restoration work. However, the dynamic landscape and hazards identified during the threat analysis resulted in us shifting to lower risk habitat enhancement work on the property. The reduction in expenditures reflects this change in the habitat work. Riparian habitat restoration and enhancement may be a future possibility on this property, but it will need to be considered carefully and to ensure there is not negative impact to the neighbouring properties.

The neighbouring landowners are under significant stress due to the risk of catastrophic landslides that could destroy their homes and properties. They require clear communications and patience to address their concerns.

4. COMMUNICATIONS



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

The FVC's Ryder Creek webpage was updated with new content learned as a result of this project (<https://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/programs/ryder-creek/>) which has received over 200 views to date. We also promoted the work of this project through a social media post (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) which had over 3100 views.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

HCTF was acknowledged as the funder for this work on our webpage and in our published reports.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

There was no media coverage about the project his year other then our social media post.

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

20251016_085938 - Knotweed pretreatment – Photo of some of the knotweed which has established on the property and was later treated through this project.
20251021_092024 - Ivy cut from tree – Ivy had grown up many of the trees and threatened to choke them out. We cut the base of these to kill the top growth.
20251104 - Salmon spawning in Ryder Creek – While working on the property we noticed salmon coming up Ryder Creek to spawn, proving the importance of this watercourse.
20251104_115908 - Pile of blackberry removed – An example of one of many piles of blackberry that were removed during ISM efforts.
20251104_125157 - Willow stakes installed – Some of the willow stakes that were cut on the property and installed where blackberry was removed.

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

N/a



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Provide any other information you wish to share with HCTF.

Thank you for supporting our work on this property!



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026 FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



20251104_115908 - Pile of blackberry removed – An example of one of many piles of blackberry that were removed during ISM efforts.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



20251104_125157 - Willow stakes installed – Some of the willow stakes that were cut on the property and installed where blackberry was removed.



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 2-764

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP,	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Ryder Creek		Understand current conditions	Identify the aquatic and terrestrial habitat present and the species that may use them	Expert recommendations incorporated into baseline data collection and informs both the baseline report and management plan	Fish expert advising (species habitat, water quality monitoring methods, survey recommendations). Fish surveys if recommended. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	C	These activates were completed in Years 1 and 2
					FVC Staff: Baseline vegetation surveys and mapping of invasive species. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and field equipment supplied by FVC.	C	
					Expert advising on terrestrial wildlife suitability. Survey recommendations and implementation. In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	C	
		Understand current conditions	Assess the landscape	The creation of a map or maps containing notable structures, hydrological features and property boundaries	FVC Staff: Visual inspection and mapping of notable structures throughout the property (Anthropogenic and natural)	C	These activities were completed in Year 1. However exact property boundaries were unclear on the ground which led to concerns from the neighbours. Therefore in year 3 the property was surveyed and visible property markers were installed.
					FVC Staff: Visual inspection with ground-based searches for altered hydrology. Mapping of all hydrologic features observed.	C	
					FVC Staff: Confirm and map property boundaries.	C	
		Understand current conditions	Document the existing conditions of the soil and water	Baseline data collected and organized for use in a baseline report and informs the management plan	Geotechnical expert advising (to understand site stability and asses risk). In-kind reflects contractor reduced, not-for-profit, day rate.	C	These activities were completed in year 1. A geotechnical survey of the property was completed by the FVRD in December 2025 in response to an atmospheric river event. Another geotechnical survey was completed by the FVRD in March 2026 in resonsponse to another atmonspheric river event.
					FVC Staff: Water quality sampling	C	
					FVC Staff: Soil sampling	C	
		Understand current conditions	Document historic land use	Information collected and organized and reported in the baseline report and informs the management plan	FVC Staff: Investigation of historic land use/land use of surrounding area	C	Initial investigations of historic land use was completed in Year 1, including notifying the Sto:lo Referrals Office. Copies of the Baseline Report and Management Plan were submitted to the Sto:lo Referrals Office for feedback December 8, 2025. No feedback has been received to date.
					FVC Staff: Consult with a First Nation group regarding historic significance of the area	IP	
		Understand current conditions	Create baseline document that will inform the management plan and habitat enhancement on the property	Baseline report created	FVC Staff: Compile the data collected and create baseline document. Additional contribution is FVC staff RPBio supervision and review for baseline data collection and analysis	C	The baseline document was completed in year 2. The survey results from year 3 have been included in the Baseline report as an appendix (see attached report).
		Guide property management both short and long term	Create a plan that will be used to manage the property and make informed decisions both in the short and long term	Management plan created	FVC Staff: Interpret baseline findings and draft a management plan for the site. Additional contribution includes matching funds for FVC staff time developing the management plan.	C	FVC staff created the Ryder Creek Management Plan (attached) based on the baseline document created in year 2. The FVC's Habtiat Protection Committee provided expert input and advice. The plan was approved by the FVC's Board of Directors in the fall of 2025. The plan has been published and posted on the FVC website (https://fraservalleyconservancy.ca/programs/ryder-creek/) and will now be used to guide management activities of the property.
					FVC Staff: Review plan for property with FVC board of directors and solicit input. Additional contribution is in-kind support from the FVC Board members and Executive Director on the review and approval process.	C	
					FVC Staff: Finalize and publish the plan.	C	

		Improve habitat	Reduce invasive plant species and increase of the presence of native vegetation	Approximately 1500 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Manual invasive species control focused on the areas of highest importance based on the management plan created. Additional contribution includes Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy and field equipment provided by FVC.	C	Himalayan blackberry (Rubus armeniacus), Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica), and English ivy (Hedera helix) were targeted for control within a riparian area which measured approximately 1500 square meters. Willow stakes were cut on site and installed along the banks of Ryder Creek. See attached " <i>Ryder Creek Invasive Species Management Memo - 2025</i> " for full details.
					FVC Staff: Plant native species where invasives were controlled. Additional contribution is planting tools provided by FVC and 10 person days of estimated volunteer support.	C	
		Improve habitat	Collect species and or habitat information to inform future management of the site	Monitoring report(s) created	FVC Staff: Implement monitoring efforts outlined in the management plan.	C	Habitat improvement recommendations from the Management Plan included an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) and a Property Monitoring Plan. Writing the ISMP was initiated during this year and will be a priority
		Improve habitat	Undertake habitat enhancement or restoration activities on the property	Approximately 100 square meters of habitat improved	FVC Staff: Undertake habitat restoration/enhancement activities as outlined in the management plan. For example may include off channel habitat creation or wetland enhancement. Addition contribution includes matching funds for FVC staff time, supplies, and contractor for implementation.	C	The habitat improvement recommendations in the Management Plan focus on invasive species control. These efforts have begun and were reported above. Other habitat restoration activities were discussed with Dr. Mike Pearson. They could include flood mitigation measures that also provide increased fish and amphibian habitat capacity on the site. The reduction in expenditures on this project is a reflection of this change in focus.

Horsefly River

5-347



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 5-347

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area

Project Leader Name: Sarah Bayliff

Name of Organization: Nature Conservancy of Canada

Date of Report: March 27th, 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader): Same as above

Name of Organization: Same as above

Contact Information: Same as above

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

Throughout 2025, NCC continued work at the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area to install and maintain fencing to control livestock trespass on the property and enhance the condition of shoreline and riparian habitat of the Horsefly River. This involved installation of approximately 440 metres of wildlife friendly barbed wire fencing along the Horsefly River in October 2025. This new fencing will prevent range cattle from accessing NCC lands and the river. Throughout 2025, NCC staff continued to monitor fencing that had been installed in 2023, completing repairs and maintenance as needed. In April 2025, NCC staff completed multiple repairs on fencing to ensure the fence remains functional and the project goals are achieved. In November 2025, NCC staff monitored the fence installed in October 2025, seeding any disturbed ground along the fence RoW.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).

Throughout the duration of this Land Stewardship Grant (2023-2026) NCC has completed the installation of 2,155 metres of riparian fencing, including install of 1,715 metres of fence in October 2023 and 440 metres in October 2025. This fence has helped to restrict cattle access into the Horsefly River and associated riparian area, reducing impacts to these areas from cattle activity. Through visual



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

observations, NCC staff have noticed less cattle activity in the areas that were fenced off in 2023. Riparian health assessments were completed prior to fence installation. Assessments will be repeated in several years once the ecosystem has had time to respond to the fence installation to measure changes in riparian health as a result of the fencing.

In addition to riparian fencing, NCC completed installation of 390 metres and repair of 1,600 metres of property perimeter fencing. This fence has restricted livestock trespass onto NCC lands from neighbouring lands. Throughout routine property monitoring, NCC staff have noted that this fencing has been successful at restricting livestock trespass and there are fewer signs of trespass grazing and associated disturbance occurring on NCC lands.

Throughout the duration of this project, NCC staff have completed monitoring of the newly installed and repaired fencelines. Required maintenance was completed throughout this timeframe by both licence holders and NCC staff. These repairs and maintenance helped ensure the fencing remains successful at restricting cattle movement as intended. Monitoring and maintenance will continue beyond the timeframe of this grant to ensure the fencing continues to remain successful and project outcomes are maintained.

The overall project outcome of intact grazing pasture fencelines along riparian areas has allowed NCC to responsibly and sustainably allow grazing on NCC lands, while reducing impacts to sensitive riparian areas. Replacement and repair of property perimeter fencing has successfully limited cattle trespass onto NCC lands, preventing overgrazing and other impacts of trespass grazing on NCC lands. These project outcomes contribute towards enhancing or maintaining ecosystem health and sustainable management of the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

Throughout this project, NCC learned that planning fence layout can be complicated. Considerations need to be made for cattle movement, access to water, ground disturbance, seasonal flooding, etc. The fenceline you've drawn on a map on a computer will likely change once you walk that fenceline on the ground. Throughout both phases of fence install for this project, a lot of changes were made to fence layout from the planning stage to eventual installation to account for these considerations. NCC staff consulted with neighbours and licence holders throughout the planning process to discuss cattle movement and understand where fencing should be placed to be most successful at achieving project outcomes. NCC also learned that having a good fencing contractor will make for a good fenceline. The contractor that NCC worked with for this project was well experienced with both fencing and cattle management and understood NCC's conservation objectives. This contractor relationship resulted in high quality fence that achieved project outcomes with limited ground disturbance.

4. COMMUNICATIONS



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.

NCC communicated with neighbours and licence holders to plan and complete fence construction and to complete required fence maintenance throughout 2025. No other project outreach activities were completed in Year 3 of this project.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

No activities specific to communicating about HCTF were undertaken throughout Year 3 of this project.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

N/A. No articles or media coverage were done for this project throughout Year 3 of funding.

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo1

Description: April 2025 - NCC staff fixing a broken wire along the property perimeter fencing that was installed in October 2023. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo2

Description: April 2025 - NCC staff replacing a broken fence post along the property perimeter fencing that was installed in October 2023. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo3

Description: Riparian fencing that was installed in October 2025 to restrict cattle access into the Horsefly River. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo4

Description: Riparian fencing that was installed in October 2025 to restrict cattle access into the Horsefly River and associated riparian area. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

N/A. No capital assets funded by HCTF were purchased in year 3 of funding or throughout the duration of this Land Stewardship Grant.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

Provide any other information you wish to share with HCTF.

Fencing is a necessary, yet expensive, activity in areas where cattle are present to help properly manage grazing and protect sensitive habitat. NCC is grateful for HCTF's support of this work through the Land Stewardship Grant.



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo1

Description: April 2025 - NCC staff fixing a broken wire along the property perimeter fencing that was installed in October 2023. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION

Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM



File name: NCC_HorseflyRiver_Year3Report_Photo2

Description: April 2025 - NCC staff replacing a broken fence post along the property perimeter fencing that was installed in October 2023. Photo taken by NCC (Sarah Bayliff).



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 5-347

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP ,	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area		Enhance the condition of shoreline and riparian habitat of the Horsefly River	Improve the condition of riparian vegetation and reduce sedimentaion by limiting cattle access along the Horsefly River	Grazing pasture fencelines along riparian areas are replaced and repaired as needed to restrict cattle access to restoration project areas and riparian habitat along the Horsefly River.	Develop a plan to prioritize fencing and strategize fenceline placement along riparian habitat.	C	Activity 1) Throughout 2025, NCC staff continued and completed planning for the final section of riparian fence to be installed as part of this project. In August 2025, NCC staff visited the site with a contractor to quote for the planned fencing. Activity 2) In October 2025, NCC hired a contractor to complete installation of 440 metres of wildlife friendly riparian fencing along the Horsefly River to prevent cattle from accessing these riparian areas. Activity 3) The 1,715 metres of riparian fencing installed in Year 1 of this project were monitored by NCC staff in April 2025. In November 2025, NCC staff visited the site to inspect the fence newly installed in October 2025 and seed the disturbed ground along the fence RoW. Cattle were not observed in the riparian area during any of these site visits. Riparian health assessments were completed in 2021 and will be completed several years following fence installation to allow time to fully assess the impacts of the riparian fencing installed from 2023-2025.
					Repair and construct approximately 2 km of wildlife friendly riparian fencing along the Horsefly River.	C	
					Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle in restoration project areas and riparian habitat. Complete riparian health assessments to assess progress of conservation goal.	C	
		Control livestock tresspass on property	Prevent cattle access from neighbouring properties and range tenures and associated grazing and trailing on property	Property perimeter fences are replaced and repaired as needed to prevent cattle at large from entering the Horsefly River Riparian Conservation Area.	Develop a plan to determine priority for property perimeter fencelines	C	Activity 1 and 2) Planning and replacement of property perimter fencing was completed in year 1 of the project. No further planning or install of property perimeter fencing was completed in 2025. Activity 3) Monitoring of the 1,990 metres of property perimeter fencing was completed throughout a site visit in April 2025. NCC staff completed multiple repairs to the fence during this site visit. Throughout routine property monitoring, NCC staff have noted that the property perimeter fencing has been successful at restricting livestock trespass and there are fewer signs of trespass grazing and associated disturbance occurring on NCC lands.
					Repair and replace approximately 850 m of wildlife friendly fencing along property perimeters.	C	
					Complete fence maintenance as required, inspect for signs of cattle trespass. Monitor cover of Reed Canary Grass to assess progress of conservation goal.	C	

Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

8-500



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

HCTF Project Number: 8-500

1. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project/Property Name: Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park

Project Leader Name: Barbara Craven

Name of Organization: BC Small Wetlands Association

Date of Report: Feb 6 2026

Author of Report (if different than Project Leader):

Name of Organization:

Contact Information:

2. SUMMARY

Provide a general description of project work completed in the last year (500 words max).

The focus of our final year has been on the maintenance of the three Miyawaki mini forests established in the Park, as well as monitoring the insect and plant populations of the wetland ponds. Visitors to the Park have been able to observe the rapid growth of the densely planted trees and shrubs, compared to slower growth of the original mono plantings in the Park. This has prompted interest from landowners and likeminded organizations such as the Armstrong Wetlands Association to create denser mini forests in place of mono planted trees. This year we have been planning a project collaboration between BCSWA and the Township of Spallumcheen to plant 1,000 trees under the FCM Community Canopies initiative.

Please provide a general summary of overall project outcomes (500 words max).

BCSWA has been able to illustrate how Miyawaki mini forests contribute to nature based climate action through the accelerated carbon storage rates by trees and shrubs evident on our carbon sequestration worksheet. We continue to promote the benefits of planting small, dense mini forests in any available



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

space in local communities and invite community members to visit the Park to see the rapid growth of the three planted between 2023 and 2025. Having the ability to offer cultural ecological outreaches for school students has been a highlight of the past three years, as well as hosting organizations such as the BC Wildlife Federation for their Wetland keepers workshops. An unexpected benefit is that the Park has become a recognized source for foraging. Foraging expert Mikaela Cannon, author of “Foraging as a Way of Life”, dug cattail rhizomes from the pond in 2025 to grind into flour. BCSWA was honored to connect with Secwepemc community Elders to celebrate culture and traditions through ceremony at native tree and shrub planting events. The Park also became part of the Truth and Reconciliation National Healing Forest movement with support from the David Suzuki Foundation.

3. LESSONS LEARNED

Describe any problems or challenges that arose, and how you addressed them in order to proceed with the project. What have you learned that would be valuable to share with others that may be undertaking a similar project?

We have gained a great deal of new knowledge that we have documented over the past three years. Good documentation is essential for monitoring and reporting on the growth rate of the trees and shrubs. Succession planning is also very important for continuity in case any principal knowledge keepers should move away. The need to accommodate an amputee employee has been a challenge. We believed the Park to be fully accessible but there were modifications necessary in the parking area by the entrance and to the outhouse access ramp.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Project Outreach Activities: Provide information on any outreach activities during the year that directly relate to the project.



Land Stewardship Grant 2023-2026

FINAL YEAR REPORT FORM

One of the goals established in the Park management plan was to reach out to other organizations involved in environmental stewardship to compare notes. In the last year, we have connected with the BC Parks Foundation, Eco Forest Institute Society and the Stewardship Centre for BC. We have also been comparing our mini forest initiatives with the Whatcom Million Trees Project in Washington State where the Miyawaki mini forest movement is growing rapidly.

Communicating about HCTF: Provide information on any activities specific to communicating about HCTF undertaken during the year.

We promote HCTF's Education tools for workshops including the "Freshwater Macroinvertebrate Identification Key" for the wetland pond discoveries and "Spiders of BC" to identify webs found in the field. Because the sheets are waterproof and washable, they can be handled and reused many times.

Media Coverage: Provide a list of any articles or media coverage during the year.

5. PHOTOS

Include a minimum of three photos as part of your report, attached as separate JPG files. List the filenames below, plus a description of each photo.

Feb 2026 – Ponderosa pines planted Oct 2021.jpg
Showing that mono planted trees grow slowly over five years
Feb 2026 - Ponderosa pines planted April 2023.jpg
Ponderosa pines in a densely planted mini forest show rapid growth in three years
Oct 2025 – mini forest planted Oct 2023.jpg
Densely planted Aspens grew to over 20 feet in three years
Mikaela harvesting cattails.jpg
Foraging expert Mikaela Cannon gathers cattails to grind into flour

6. ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Provide a description of any materials and supplies purchases funded by HCTF that are considered capital assets. See Final Year Reporting Instructions for information on Capital Assets.

NA

Provide any other information you wish to share with HCTF.

BCSWA are extremely grateful for the HCTF funding, which provided the opportunity to evolve programs and develop best practices for the stewardship of a small but very important nature park.



Published foraging expert Mikaela Cannon harvests cattail rhizomes to make flour



Students selecting trees for Earth Day planting



Splats'in Elders share knowledge on Indigenous Day



Land Stewardship Grant - Reporting

Project Number: 8-500

Please read the Grant Report Instruction before completing this form.

Property/Complex Name:		Goal	Objective	Expected Outcome/Performance Indicators by End of Year 3	Activities	Activity Status Year 3 (C, IC, IP, NS)	Year 3 Final Year Summary of progress
Pleasant Valley Wetland Heritage Park		Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Riparian planting and replacing trees and shrubs affected by drought and animal grazing.	250 willow whips planted, 75 trees replaced, 400 x 2 gallon new trees and shrubs planted, 5 new culturally important plants introduced	Research drought tolerant replacement trees and shrubs "Ministry of FLNR "Tree Book". In April contract Sagebrush Native Nursery to grow additioual trees and shrubs to be delivered for planting in Sept. 2023,2024,2025	C	We planted 268 green willow whips and also observed red willows growing in the wetland. The red willows were planted in 2018 but did not appear to establish at the time. Hosever, shoots appeared in spring 2025 and are now thriving . We replaced 75 trees with lodgepole and ponderosa pine, both are extremely drought tolerant. More than 600 new trees and shrubs were planted in the three mini forests. The new culturally important plants introduced included white sage and white pine.
					Create additional interpretive signage for new species in the park with input from Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers	C	
					Source culturally important plants that no longer grow in the area: Secwepemc People & Plants, University of Victoria. Dr. Nancy Turner et al 2016, plant each fall, cut willow whips when dormant	C	
		Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update management and stewardship plan for next three years using current data on plant and animal communities to inform management priorities	2023-2026 Park Resource Management and Stewardship plan completed and published	Inventories completed by staff and contractors	C	The 2023-2026 Park Resource Management and Stewardship plan is complete and has become an important tool for the board, staff and volunteers, as well as an orientation guide for new board members
					Results incorporated into new management plan and priorities/activites updated accordingly	C	
		Continue development of wetland ponds and forested areas in 2 acre park	Update inventory of trees and monitor carbon sequestration by trees, shrubs, plants and grasses, on a worksheet that	Master spreadsheet updated 50 students participate in annual inventory, carbon storage increases by 1.05 tonnes	Liaise with school board to arrange student group attendance days	C	We have a total of 948 trees and shrubs identified on the master spreadsheet. The latest annual inventory indicates carbon storage increased by 1.18 tonnes year over year
					Provide tools for tree measurement and data recording events	C	
		Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Youth learn about densely planted pocket forests and help with planting	Two pocket forests created	Staff and forestry expert select tree and shrub mix in March 2023,2024,2025 for three pocket forests, resource: "The Miyawaki Method for Creating Forests"	C	Three pocket forests, also known as mini forests or tiny forests, are flourishing in the Park.
					Arrange planting events, April- May 2023 and 2024 and contact youth organizations to sign up participants	C	
					Contract Secwepemc Knowledge Keepers and forestry experts to speak to youth	C	
		Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Community members participate in invasive species removal	Removal of 75% of Canada thistle, burdock and Scentless Camomile	Staff and expert consultant conduct baseline inventories, research best management practices (BMPs), consult local Invasive Species Council, and prepare Invasive Species Management Plan	C	Most of the Canada thistle, burdock and Scentless Camomile was identified and removed. This will be an ongoing task in years to come as it is very difficult to completely eradicate these invasive species
					Provide tools and equipment to host annual invasive species removal days	C	
		Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Provide Information kiosk to keep community organizations and visitors to the park up to date on volunteer opportunities.	Information kiosk constructed at entrance to the park	Construct information kiosk	C	The information kiosk is constructed and awaiting the installation of a notice board. The volunteer database and task list is complete
					Create task list to be updated weekly and posted on Board. Post information on Events	IP	
					Maintain volunteer data base and updated task list	C	
		Engage the local community to participate in the management of the conservation land	Invite local landowners, Secwepemc Elders and local dignitaries to annual Open House and forest garden harvest	5 landowners express an interest in creating wetland areas on their land	Carry out maintenance and repairs as necessary on observation platform, pavilion and benches. Create post and chain fences to prevent access to sensitive wetland areas	C	We have had interest in planting mini forests from several local landowners, as well as the City of Armstrong and the Township of Spallumcheen
					Schedule for Sept 30th each year, organize pop up tents and extra seating, arrange honorariums for Elders	C	