



Restricted Funding Opportunity

Fraser Valley Lowlands Raptor Fund

What We Are Looking For

HCTF will consider project proposals aligned with the priority outcomes and suggested actions detailed below.

On-the-ground Conservation Outcomes:

1. **Protect and/or restore raptor grassland breeding or feeding habitat in the Fraser Valley Lowlands (FVL).**
2. **Protect and/or restore woodlands or breeding structures associated with open/grassland habitat in the FVL.**

To support these outcomes, actions may include:

- Implementing conservation agreements (covenants etc.), legislative measures (Wildlife Management Area designations etc.) and/or informing the purchase of lands for the purpose of maintaining raptor habitat features in perpetuity.
- Habitat restoration that both re-introduces raptor habitat features into currently degraded or impacted areas in the FVL and will be maintained in perpetuity with confidence (i.e. within protected areas).
- As part of on-the-ground conservation outcomes, also communicate and raise the profile of the value & benefits of healthy raptor populations and habitat objectives with local government councils, First Nations, agricultural community, and other stakeholders that have direct control or influence over the management of FVL raptor habitat. This may involve the following components to larger conservation projects (i.e. not eligible on their own):
 - Development of educational materials (multi-media, etc.) that communicate the value and condition of raptor habitat and populations in the FVL.
 - Direct and focused outreach efforts (workshops, presentations, etc.) to communicate tangible & realistic conservation opportunities with priority land-use authorities and/or key stakeholders with direct control or influence of the management of FVL raptor habitat.
 - Collaborating with key land-use authorities (local governments, agriculture community, First Nations, Province of B.C., etc.) to explore parallel initiatives to manage and conserve raptor habitat in FVL.
 - Developing FVL raptor data-sharing tools such as an online web-mapping portal that communicates potential and completed habitat protection and restoration actions in a publicly available and user-friendly format.

Assessment/Inventory Outcomes

3. **Improve our understanding of the persistence of ground-nesting by Short-eared Owls and/or Northern Harriers occurring in the FVL.**

4. **Improve our understanding of raptor feeding habitat selection in FVL open grasslands and wetlands by Short-eared Owls, Northern Harriers, Snowy Owls, Barn Owls and/or American Kestrels.**
5. **Improve our understanding of feeding success factors for Snowy Owls in the FVL.**

To support these outcomes, actions may include:

- Literature review and/or data mining to explore what is currently known regarding the specific breeding and feeding habitat requirements for NOHA and SEOW, with emphasis on research on FVL populations.
- Habitat modelling using up-to-date landcover data to model the size and distribution of raptor breeding habitat, with particular emphasis on ground-nesting habitat in the FVL.
- Habitat use assessments by monitoring breeding & feeding behaviour & habitat selection (GPS tagging, breeding season surveillance, etc.).
- Developing FVL raptor data sharing tools such as an online web-mapping portal that pulls together available and emerging research, assessments, and citizen-based data to communicate habitat conditions and use, in a publicly available and user-friendly format.

Planning Outcomes

6. **Establish clear, flexible and realistic raptor breeding habitat supply objectives for the FVL.**
7. **Establish flexible and realistic raptor foraging habitat supply objectives for the FVL.**

To support these outcomes, planning actions may include:

- Systematic exploration of the potential for conservation agreements and/or purchase of lowland, grassland habitats in the FVL.
- Review of available raptor habitat supply modelling for the FVL.
- Workshopping realistic future habitat supply scenarios with raptor specialists.
- Collaborating with key land-use authorities (local governments, agriculture community, First Nations, BC, etc.) to explore parallel initiatives to manage and conserve raptor habitat in the FVL.
- Developing FVL raptor data sharing tools such as an online web-mapping portal that pulls together available and emerging research, assessments, and citizen-based data to communicate habitat conditions, raptor use, and future objectives in a publicly available and user-friendly format.

Applying for Funding

This funding is currently available through HCTF's existing [Fish & Wildlife](#) granting program, which is now open for proposals until November 6, 2026, at 4:30 pm (PT). To apply under the current intake, review the [guidance document](#) and additional information on the [Apply tab](#). If you believe that your project would be a good fit for this funding, please select this Restricted Fund from the appropriate drop-down box in the application.

Applicants should use the Word worksheet provided on the HCTF Resources tab to draft the application(s) before transferring text (via cut-and-paste) over to the Survey Apply online application form.

Applicants are welcome to submit multi-year proposals (note: the maximum duration of a continuing Fish & Wildlife proposal is 3 years). It is estimated that approximately \$200,000 will be available each year. There is no minimum or maximum amount that one project can apply for, but the intention is to fund multiple projects per year, so applicants are encouraged to budget accordingly. There is no leveraging (match-funding) requirement, but additional partnership or in-kind funding will be viewed as a strength in an application.

Prioritized List of Fraser Valley Lowland Raptors

Category	Raptor Species	Umbrella Status				Conservation Status													Total Score
		FVL Grass/Wetland Breeding Dependence		FVL Grass/Wetland Feeding Habitat Dependence		Provincial Conservation Status		State of Canada's Birds				COSEWIC Status	SONAB Continental Concern		BirdLife International Trend		IUCN Status		
		Description	Score	Description	Score	Description	Score	Description	Goal Status	Confidence	Score		#	Score	Description	Score	Description	Score	
1	Short-eared Owl	Ground/Grassland	2	Open/Grassland	3	Critically Imperiled	3	Large Decrease	Below Range	High	3	Threatened	12	3	Decreasing	3	Least Concern	0	7.40
2	Northern Harrier	Ground/Grassland	2	Open/Grassland	3	Apparently Secure	0	Large Decrease	Below Range	High	3	Not At Risk	11	3	Unknown	2	Least Concern	0	6.60
3	Snowy Owl	None	0	Open/Grassland	3	No Status	N/A	Large Decrease	Below Range	Medium	2.25	Not At Risk	14	3	Decreasing	3	Vulnerable	1	5.31
	American Kestrel	Cavity/Woodland	1	Open/Grassland	3	Apparently Secure	0	Moderate Decrease	Below Range	Medium	1.5	N/A	10	2	Unknown	2	Least Concern	0	5.10
	Barn Owl	Structures/Cavity	1	Open/Grassland	3	Vulnerable	1	Little Change	Within Range	Medium	0	Threatened	8	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	5.00
4	Western Screech Owl	Cavity/Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Large Decrease	Data Deficient	Medium	1.5	Threatened	13	3	Decreasing	3	Least Concern	0	4.50
	Prairie Falcon	None	0	Open/Grassland	3	Critically Imperiled	3	Little Change	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	10	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	4.40
	Great Horned Owl	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Large Decrease	Below Range	Medium	2.25	N/A	8	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	4.25
5	Long-eared Owl	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Little Change	Within Range	Low	0	N/A	12	3	Decreasing	3	Least Concern	0	4.20
	Rough-Legged Hawk	None	0	Open/Grassland	3	Vulnerable	1	Little Change	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	8	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	4.00
	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Moderate Increase	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	7	1	Decreasing	3	Least Concern	0	3.80
6	Peregrine Falcon	Cliff/Structures	1	Mixed	2	Vulnerable	1	Large Increase	Within Range	High	0	Not At Risk	9	2	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.80
	Merlin	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	High	0	Not At Risk	7	1	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	3.60
	Bald Eagle	Structures/Woodlands	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Very High	0	Not At Risk	9	2	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.60
7	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Cavity/Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Low	0	N/A	8	2	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.60
	Cooper's Hawk	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Little Change	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	7	1	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.40
	Barred Owl	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Very High	0	N/A	7	1	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.40
8	Red-tailed Hawk	Woodland	1	Mixed	2	Secure	0	Moderate Increase	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	6	1	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	3.40
	Gyr Falcon	None	0	Mixed	2	Vulnerable	1	Moderate Decrease	Below Range	Low	1	Not At Risk	9	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	3.20
	Northern Hawk Owl	None	0	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Moderate Increase	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	11	3	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	3.00
9	Golden Eagle	None	0	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Little Change	Within Range	Medium	0	Not At Risk	7	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	2.80
	American Goshawk	None	0	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Little Change	Within Range	Low	0	Threatened	10	2	Unknown	2	Least Concern	0	2.80
	Osprey	Structure	1	Open Water	1	Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Medium	0	N/A	7	1	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	2.40
10	Turkey Vulture	None	0	Mixed	2	Apparently Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Very High	0	N/A	5	0	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	2.40
	Boreal Owl	None	0	Woodland	1	Apparently Secure	0	Data Deficient	Data Deficient	N/A	N/A	Not At Risk	10	2	Stable	2	Least Concern	0	2.00
	Northern Pygmy Owl	None	0	Woodland	1	Apparently Secure	0	Moderate Increase	Within Range	Medium	0	N/A	11	3	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	1.80
11	Great Gray Owl	None	0	Woodland	1	Apparently Secure	0	Large Increase	Within Range	Very Low	0	Not At Risk	9	2	Increasing	1	Least Concern	0	1.60

Please direct any project-related inquiries to grants@hctf.ca for further assistance.