



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
April 7, 2006  
HCTF06-01

## **Fishing/hunting licences fund 116 conservation projects across BC**

PENTICTON - The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, supported by surcharges on angling and hunting licence fees, will fund 116 projects totalling over \$5 million province-wide, Harvey Andrusak, Board chair, announced today. Andrusak made the announcement at this year's BC Wildlife Federation conference.

"BC has more species of fish and wildlife and more types of habitat than any other province," said Andrusak. "The projects funded this year will make a difference as we work with our partners to achieve conservation results together. BC's anglers, hunters, guide-outfitters and trappers are contributing to conservation, habitat restoration, biological diversity and sustainability through this fund."

Highlights of HCTF's 2006 project awards are:

- \$114,945 Mountain Goat/Helicopter Behavioural Research across BC
- \$250,000 BC Wetland Partnership to protect and restore marshes and wetlands
- \$184,000 East Kootenay Grassland Ecosystem Restoration
- \$219,000 Quesnel Lake Fish Restoration
- \$118,470 Habitat restoration for Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Mule Deer & Mountain Goat in Southern Interior

Project applications were approved following a detailed technical review and evaluation. Applications came from local conservation and wilderness organizations, sporting and nature clubs, environmental groups, and citizens associations. Many are partnered with other funding sources.

HCTF is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Since its creation, more than \$90 million has been provided to more than 2000 enhancement and educational projects and \$12 million has purchased the habitats that support key ecosystems in the province. As most HCTF projects are partnered with other organizations, the total invested is more than \$250 million.

HCTF will announce funding decisions regarding habitat purchases in summer 2006.

- 30 -

Note to editors: Project List attached. Contact: Jacquie Louie (250) 387-9369:

For more details on HCTF go to: <http://www.hctf.ca>