



# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
April 19, 2007  
HCTF07-02

## Anglers, hunters, trappers invest \$5.4 million in fish and wildlife projects

**[Dawson Creek]** - The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, supported by BC angling, hunting, guide and trapper licence surcharges, will invest over \$5.4 million to fund 130 conservation projects across BC.

"Our contributors understand the importance of investing in projects such as these", noted HCTF Board Chair Harvey Andrusak. "Hunting, fishing and conservation groups across BC share a common goal of improving habitat and wildlife and fisheries management. By giving these groups the funding and tools they need for important conservation projects, we can sustain the habitats and populations that provide recreation in all regions of BC."

The following project themes this year are particularly notable:

**Grassroots Conservation** – through the Public Conservation Assistance Fund (total budget up to \$150,000), the Trust will provide small grants to local conservation groups. Deadline for applications is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Invasive species control** – HCTF is investing about \$300,000 in research and control activities to respond to the growing issue of invasive, non-native fish species by supporting projects in the Lower Mainland, Kootenays, Thompson and Cariboo Regions.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – the Trust will invest over \$530,000 in ecosystem restoration projects (prescribed burning, ingrowth removal, thinning and slashing and related activities) to enhance ungulate and upland bird habitat at projects sites across the province.

"The work done by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund mirrors our government's commitment to the conservation of species, habitat protection and to providing recreational opportunities for all British Columbians," said Environment Minister Barry Penner. "These projects have clearly demonstrated benefits that will support the restoration, preservation and protection of fish and wildlife species and their habitats."

Since its creation in 1981, HCTF has provided more than \$90 million in project funding to more than 2000 enhancement, educational and acquisition projects across BC. As most HCTF projects are partnered with other organizations, the total invested is more than \$250 million.

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

- 30 -

Note to editors: Complete list of all approved projects is attached. Contact: Jacquie Louie (250) 387-9369:

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