



# NEWS RELEASE

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## BC Conservation Trust Wins International Award

**Tucson, Arizona** - One of BC's best kept conservation secrets is receiving international recognition at an awards ceremony in Tucson, Arizona today.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation is receiving the Group Achievement Award from The Wildlife Society, a Maryland based organization that has been at the forefront of science-based wildlife management in North America since 1937.

The award recognizes organizations that accomplish outstanding achievements to benefit wildlife in North America. Past award winners have included the US National Audubon Society, Alaska's Kenai Moose Research Center, and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

"The Trust has been doing important conservation work since 1981," noted Trust Board Chair Harvey Andrusak. "With over \$100 million invested in over 2000 project sites, the Trust has had a tremendously beneficial impact on species and habitats across British Columbia. It is very gratifying to have that fact recognized by the Wildlife Society."

The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation is a funding organization, and anyone with a good idea to help BC's native fish and wildlife populations can apply for funding. The Trust receives most of its funding from surcharges on angling, hunting, guide-outfitting and trapping licences, as well as donations and bequests.

"This award is further evidence that British Columbia is at the forefront of fish and wildlife management across North America" noted the Hon. Barry Penner, Minister of Environment for British Columbia. "As a creature of provincial legislation, the Trust is a symbol of partnership between the contributors and government, working to ensure the long term sustainability of fish and wildlife across BC."

The Wildlife Society (TWS), founded in 1937, is an international non-profit scientific and educational association dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society.

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For more details on HCTF go to: <http://www.hctf.ca> – a list of approved projects for 2007/08 is attached.

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