



NEWS RELEASE

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Fish & Wildlife Conservation Budgets Get a Boost

Fernie – The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation announced today that it is investing over \$5 million in the coming year to support and enhance fish and wildlife populations across BC.

In making the announcement, HCTF Board Chair Harvey Andrusak said “the projects funded this year will make a difference as we work together to protect important habitat and the species relying on it. BC’s anglers, hunters, guide-outfitters and trappers continue to be leaders not only by contributing to habitat restoration and biological diversity, but also by carrying out the projects necessary to maintain viable fish and wildlife populations”.

The project list, comprising of over 200 projects run by some of BC’s best wildlife biologists, fisheries scientists, and volunteer groups, was released today at the annual BC Wildlife Federation Convention in Fernie.

Some of the highlights of HCTF’s 2009/10 funding contributions are:

- \$483,700 going towards the management and removal of invasive fish species in small lakes valued for their recreational fishing potential in the Thompson-Nicola region;
- \$250,000 allocated to the BC Wetland Partnership, with a goal to protect and restore marshes and wetlands in BC’s Southern Interior;
- \$170,000 going towards the East Kootenay Grassland Ecosystem Restoration project, aiming to restore and enhance habitat used by grassland-dependent species;
- \$108,575 contributed towards a Stone's Sheep project in the Peace Region whose goal is to determine habitat use of the sheep, in an effort to ensure that habitat is protected amidst oil & gas development;
- \$103,000 going towards a project monitoring Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout, looking specifically at their current population levels, and determining the potential for a recreational fishery.

Since its creation in 1981, HCTF has provided more than \$120 million in project funding to more than 2500 conservation, enhancement, and educational projects across BC. As most HCTF projects are partnered with other organizations, the total invested is more than \$250 million.

HCTF receives 90% of its revenue from hunting, fishing, guide-outfitting and trapping license surcharge fees. The Foundation issues an annual call-for-proposals to re-invest this money back into fish and wildlife conservation projects.

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Note to editors: Project List attached. Contact: Brian Springinotic, HCTF Executive Director. 250-356-6124.
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