



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
April 30, 2010
HCTF10-01

\$5 Million to Benefit Community-based Fish and Wildlife Projects Across BC

Prince George – The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation announced today that it is investing over \$5 million in conservation projects this year to support and enhance fish and wildlife populations across BC.

In making the announcement, HCTF Board Chair Harvey Andrusak said, “By making this multi-million dollar investment, BC’s anglers, hunters, guide-outfitters, and trappers are showing true leadership in conservation, habitat restoration and biological diversity across British Columbia. It’s just one of the ways that these stakeholders continue to invest in sustaining BC’s world class fish and wildlife heritage”

The approved project list, comprising over 150 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 Prince George.

Some of the highlights of HCTF’s 2010/11 funding contributions are:

- Over \$400,000 to successfully eradicate invasive alien species in southern interior lakes and restock with native trout.
- \$250,000 allocated to the BC Wetland Partnership, with a goal to protect and restore marshes and wetlands across British Columbia.
- Over \$250,000 to conduct habitat restoration activities in fire-maintained and priority ecosystems to restore and conserve habitats for wildlife dependent on these environments.
- Over \$20,000 to support a program to get “young naturalists” out into the field to experience nature and learning about habitats and the natural world.
- Over \$100,000 to various projects across BC aimed at conservation of bats, red-legged frogs, Oregon Spotted frogs, painted turtles and other amphibian species.

Since its creation in 1981, HCTF has provided more than \$125 million in project funding to more than 2,500 conservation, enhancement, and educational projects across BC. As most HCTF projects are partnered with other organizations, the total invested is almost \$400 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: Approved Project List attached.

Contact: Brian Springinotic, HCTF Executive Director. 250-360-6718

www.hctf.ca



APPROVED PROJECT LIST 2010-2011

Media Alert: Members of the media are encouraged to contact proponents directly. Project proponents have detailed knowledge of the project benefits, and may be able to arrange site tours, and often have high quality images available.

Multi Region

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| WildBC (Project Wild) | \$155,000 | Kerrie Mortin 250-940-9787 |
| Management of a family of environmental education programs and resource materials. | | |
| Public Conservation Assistance Fund | \$150,000 | Lynne Bonner 250-940-9785 |
| Volunteer public conservation projects to enhance opportunities for local conservation groups to participate in and contribute to fish and wildlife conservation projects in their communities. | | |
| B.C.'s Family Fishing Weekend | \$30,000 | Owen Bird 250-664-7201 |
| Sponsors and coordinates more than 50 community-based angling events throughout BC to encourage participation in recreational angling, build greater awareness of the importance of fish and teach about their habitat. | | |
| BC Wetland Partnership Program | \$250,000 | Brad Arner 250-374-8307ext 223 |
| Operate, maintain and manage existing wetland conservation projects throughout BC and work to secure and restore additional wetland habitats benefiting fish and wildlife. | | |
| 2010 Provincial Peregrine Falcon Monitoring Survey | \$45,000 | Myke J. Chutter 250-387-9797 |
| Peregrine Falcon eyrie occupancy surveys around Queen Charlotte Islands, Vancouver/Gulf Islands, Lower Mainland and interior sites, to maintain long-term monitoring, enable conservation of breeding habitat, and justify harvest. | | |
| Wild/Domestic Sheep & Goat Separation 0325 | \$15,000 | David Zehnder 250-342- |
| Support for current regional programs (South Okanagan, East Kootenay) for local programs to prevent contact and disease transmission between domestic sheep and goats and wild sheep. | | |
| Mountain Goat/Helicopter Behavioural Research Project | \$22,000 | Doug Heard 250-614-9903 |
| This collaborative, multi-year project is intended to assess the short to longer term responses of mountain goats to helicopter activity. | | |
| Crown Land Securement Pilot Project | \$30,000 | Tim Clermont 250-616-6793 |
| Supports Year 3 of a Pilot Program assisting MOE with the designation of new Wildlife Management Areas and the securement Crown fish and wildlife reserves on Vancouver Island the Lower Mainland. | | |

- Nutrient Purchase for Fish Habitat Restoration** **\$25,000** **Kevin Pellett 250-716-8776**
 Improve freshwater productivity in target watersheds with the addition of inorganic and organic fertilizers to increase growth and survival of stream rearing salmonids. Community awareness of the role of marine derived nutrients through First Nation and stewardship group involvement.
- Visual Screening & Cover Requirements & Habitat Needs of Selected Grassland Dwelling Species – Monitoring Grassland Bird Nest Cover Using Digital Photography** **\$25,000** **Cindy Haddow 250-743-8933 Local 2227**
 Visual screening nest cover requirements of four grassland nesting bird species, to relate bird presence, abundance and nest success to habitat quality and availability and to impacts of livestock grazing, using digital photography and produce guidance documents for maintenance of bird nesting habitat in grazed grassland ecosystems.
- British Columbia Bat Habitat Conservation Conservation & Management** **\$13,500** **Purnima Govindarajulu 250-387-9755**
 Provide a series of resource sector-specific best-management practice (BMP) documents to proactively improve management of habitats to conserve bats.
- Angling Market Development Initiative** **\$150,000** **Don Peterson 250-414-4200**
 Development Plan during which FFSBC, as the lead, will continue to implement and measure the License Renewal Campaign, the Compliance Campaign and the Angler Performance Research.
- Purple Martin Status Report** **\$5,000** **Myke J. Chutter 250-387-9797**
 Completion of an updated Status Report on the Purple Martin that documents the stewardship, habitat conservation and research of the past 12 years and makes recommendations on sustaining and improving the species recovery.
- Fisher Habitat Conservation – Provincial Extension Program** **\$9,900** **Eric Lofroth 250-356-0244**
 Synthesize valuable information gained from recent habitat research on fishers from across BC and extend it to forest practitioners to effectively conserve the quality and quantity of fisher habitat in the forests of BC.
- Prioritized Bullfrog Management to Optimize Cost-Benefits to Native Species Conservation** **\$28,125** **Purnima Govindarajulu 250-387-9755**
 Implement prioritized management actions for the invasive bullfrogs focusing on management actions in areas where the probability of prevention and eradication is highest and where the potential ecological impact of bullfrogs is greatest.
- BC Hinterlands Who’s Where: The Key to Completing the BC Breeding Bird Atlas** **\$20,000** **Peter Davidson 604-940-4696**
 Strengthen the conservation impact of the BC Breeding Bird Atlas, developing innovative new partnerships with back-country user groups to fill priority knowledge gaps, and engaging hundreds of British Columbians in fun but responsible activities that directly inform habitats and resource management.
- Bat Inventory Methodology Development, Verification & Implementation** **\$22,500** **Purnima Govindarajulu 250-387-9755**
 Develop protocols for acoustic surveys for bats by netting, confirming identification by DNA analysis, recording echolocation calls for analysis, and developing a reference library of these calls.
- Monitoring & Restoring Degraded Habitat For Coexisting Species** **\$18,000** **Scott Barrett 604-582-5387**
 Rehabilitation of degraded habitat for red-legged frogs, western painted turtles, and cutthroat trout; identification of critical habitat features; implementation of conservation framework objectives; and climate change impact monitoring.

Inventory & Long-Term Monitoring for Rana aurora & R. Pretiosa **\$5,650** **Scott Barrett 604-582-5387**
Concurrent inventory and monitoring of Red-legged frog (Blue-listed) and Oregon Spotted Frog (Red-listed) populations in targeted wetlands to monitor population trends and contribute to long-term Provincial amphibian monitoring project.

Region Specific Amphibian Public Education for Northern BC **\$5,000** **Purnima Govindarajulu 250-387-9755**
A number of high priority Conservation Framework (CF) Goal 2 amphibians have extended northern distributions but are poorly known in these areas. This project will implement monitoring (CF priority action) as an essential step in guiding future conservation and management actions for these species.

Natural Capital Modelling for Grasslands **\$30,000** **Tasha Sargent 250-374-5787**
Spatially link the value of grasslands for carbon and specific grassland ecosystems for governments to make informed land-use decisions and provide the capability for incentives for grassland conservation through such programs as carbon offsetting.

Population Assessment of the Signal Crayfish Pacifastacus leniusculus in British Columbia **\$20,000** **Leif-Matthias Herborg 250-356-7683**
A phylogeographic analysis of the signal crayfish in British Columbia to understand the distribution and separation of different populations and confirm proposed subspecies to inform fishery and conservation management.

Crown Range Enhancement Project **\$71,900** **Kingsley Campbell 250-374-8307**
Install 17 kilometers of new fence, one stock watering site, and a water retention project with MOFR, MOE, GCC and ranchers. A protocol will be developed amongst the agencies to evaluate the success of range infrastructure investments by documenting the recovery of grasslands, wetland, and species at risk habitats.

Review & Evaluation of the Quality Waters Strategy **\$49,300** **Paddy Hirshfield 250-387-3978**
Conduct review and evaluation of the Quality Waters Strategy process in the Skeena, East Kootenays, and Cariboo regions, focusing on whether the QWS successfully engages the community, produces effective Angling Management Plans, and is an efficient use of HCTF funds.

Young Naturalists' Club of BC: Nature Club Project **\$20,500** **Jennifer Swanston 604-985-3057**
Encourage more green time and less screen time through a network of volunteer-led Nature Clubs and organized Explorer Days to help engage children and their families in outdoor activities and learning about the natural world.

Grizzly Bear Monitoring Program Design Knight-Bute Grizzly Bear Population Unit **\$5,000** **Kim Brunt 250-751-3213**
A population monitoring program is required to support Grizzly bear hunting and viewing in the Knight Bute Grizzly Bear Population Unit. A contract will be issued to contrast different monitoring designs and draft funding proposals for 2011.

Vancouver Island

Vancouver Island Wetlands Management Program **\$35,000** **Thomas Reid 250-751-3218**
Develop and implement management, securement and enhancement plans for over 60 wetland conservation areas on Vancouver Island.

Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Vancouver Island **\$21,950** **Mike Stalberg 250-751-3109**
Operation and maintenance of aerators located in Glen and Langford Lakes, flow augmentation in Sandhill Creek and inspection and maintenance of fishways located in Loup and Colquitz Creeks.

Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Vancouver Island	\$41,000	Thomas Reid 250-751-3218
Assist MOE in meeting their safety, legal and land management obligations on more than 60 conservation areas on Vancouver Island. This work includes: signage, fencing, access restrictions, water control structures, weirs and dikes.		
Keogh River Steelhead Population Dynamics	\$100,000	Tom Johnston 604-222-6754
BC's steelhead index system facilitating operation of the Keogh River fish fence during a critical period of steelhead conservation concern; evaluation of conservation hatchery and habitat restoration.		
Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Stewardship Project	\$34,000	Josie Osborne 250-725-2560
Educational activities to promote awareness, build stewardship skills and create enthusiasm and commitment among local residents for monitoring critical wildlife habitat and responsible use of the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area.		
ECVI Water Storage Feasibility	\$30,000	James Craig 250-716-8776 Local 223
In prioritized east coast Vancouver Island (ECVI) watersheds, feasibility assessments of potential stream flow improvement projects to support fish habitat will be continued by MOE/BCCF in partnership with DFO, FNs, Ducks Unlimited Canada and various stakeholders.		
Cowichan Lake Fish & Fishery Assessments & Operational Plan	\$22,027	Tracy Michalski 250-751-3154
This project will result in stock and fishery information and the production of an operational management plan aimed at ensuring long-term sustainable recreational angling opportunities and increasing angler participation at Cowichan Lake.		
Vancouver Island Urban Lake Fishery Development/Improvement Program	\$23,132.74	Scott Silvestri 250-751-3233
This multi-year program (3 years) aims to increase angler participation on Vancouver Island by identifying and assisting with the implementing of projects that will create and/or enhance fishing opportunities on small lakes or ponds near urban centers.		
Bible Camp Side-Channel Design Completion (Cowichan River)	\$15,000	J.C. Wightman 250-716-8776
This project will complete engineering design/permitting requirements for the Bible Camp Side-Channel on the Cowichan River. The channel will be approx. 1km in length and 6-8m wide with an adjustable flow intake from the mainstem Cowichan River. It is intended to provide high quality rearing conditions for coho, steelhead and resident trout juveniles, especially during the volatile winter flood period.		
Keogh Lake – Licensing & Development Of New Top Storage	\$13,500	James Craig 250-716-8776 Local 223
Building on 2009 maintenance work to re-establish full access to existing licensed storage at Keogh Lake, an additional license will be secured and weir modifications completed for 15 cm of new top storage (100 ac-ft) to further improve summer fish rearing conditions throughout the Keogh River.		
Cowichan River Block 51 Erosion Control Measures	\$16,522	Jeremy Damborg 250-716-8776
In partnership with the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable, this project will assist in the feasibility and final design of an in-stream remedial project to reduce active erosion and sediment inputs at Block 51 on the Upper Cowichan River. This site represents the second largest sediment risk to fish habitat quality in the Cowichan River.		

Improving Water for Fish in Flow Sensitive Streams on the East Coast of Vancouver Island **\$25,000** **J.C. Wightman 250-716-8776**

Help develop a community template & scientific support tools needed to more effectively monitor stream flow limitations (July-September), identify water/fish conservation objectives & opportunities, & assist water users & regulators in finding long-term solutions to supply & demand challenges in several flow-sensitive, fish-producing watersheds on Vancouver Island.

Charters Rivers Flow Augmentation Measures **\$19,000** **James Craig 250-716-8776 Local 223**

Working with Capital Regional District and local stakeholders, domestic water supply infrastructure will be modified to enable a controlled release to, and support rearing fish in Charters River, a significant tributary of Sooke River on southern Vancouver Island.

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Projects On Salt Spring Island **\$25,000** **Robin Annschild 250-538-0318**

Expedite the permanent conservation of up to 6 private land acquisition projects (totaling 362 ha) with particularly high ecosystem and wildlife habitat values on Salt Spring Island. Widespread publicity about successfully completed projects will motivate other landowners to protect their land.

Brooklyn Creek 2010 Channel Enhancement Project **\$24,777** **Ken Derksen 250-339-9567**

Build on the success of fish habitat restoration work completed in previous years. Target resident trout in Brooklyn Creek and aim to increase production by way of in-stream features that are expected to enhance spawning and rearing habitat within a reach known to support trout. Enhancement work that will occur within a municipal park and private property will further heighten public awareness and improves the long-term stability of aquatic habitat.

Conserving Amphibian Populations & Connecting Habitats Across Roads **\$15,200** **Barbara Beasley 250-726-2536**

Design, install and test the effectiveness of a road underpass system and guiding fence barriers for five species of coastal amphibians. Provide information on the effect of traffic volume on the survival rates and population dynamics of Red-legged Frogs.

Nimpkish Black Bear Study: Long-term Monitoring of Over-winter Dens for Black Bears **\$12,280** **Helen Davis 250-546-0531**

Dens in large woody structures are critical features that affect over-winter survival of coastal black bears. Forest management affects the supply of dens. We will assess persistence and long-term use of dens and assist with the development of management guidelines to aid in sustaining coastal bear populations.

Lower Mainland

Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Lower Mainland **\$59,442** **Tom Blackbird 604-824-2314**

Assist with funding the operations and maintenance of provincially significant wildlife areas in BC. Sites include over 29,000 hectares of critical wildlife habitat located within 6 established WMAs and 4 conservation lands, all situated within close proximity to BC's largest population base, including the addition of 6 new sites, which include four provincial WMAs and 2 conservation lands, bringing the total project area to over 33,000 hectares.

Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery **\$31,000** **Darryl Reynolds 604-885-7419**

Working with a variety of partners the project will re-establish viable elk populations in wilderness areas of the Lower Mainland Region through the trapping and translocation of elk from the urban interface, along the Sunshine Coast.

City of Surrey's Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHARP)	\$18,902	Tracy Sutherland 604-591-4383
Perform restoration work and deliver community outreach programs that directly and indirectly contribute to improving salmonid habitat within the City of Surrey, and also provides youth with work experience in stewardship practices.		
Provision of Waterfowl & Raptor Habitat within Managed Grasslands on Lower Fraser River Farmland	\$27,500	David Bradbeer 604-940-3392
Over 1,200 ha of agricultural grassland habitat on the Fraser River delta will be enhanced on private or leased lands through land stewardship agreements with farmers thereby benefiting internationally significant concentrations of waterfowl and raptors in the area.		
Fraser River Sturgeon Monitoring & Assessment Program	\$45,000	Troy Nelson 778-322-7345
Continue the successful, stewardship-led white sturgeon stock monitoring and assessment activities established in 2000. Most data is provided by trained recreational fishers and angling guides. Program results are used to manage the fishery.		
Goose Lake Reclamation Project	\$30,000	David O'Brien 604-888-1640
Continue to remove cattail vegetation along the Northwest border of Goose Lake. This reclamation project will increase habitat diversity in an important wildfowl habitat, and build on previous work sponsored by HCTF.		
Greater Vancouver Learn to Fish Program	\$60,000	Bryan Ludwig 250-414-4205
Inform and educate urban dwellers as to the social, environmental, economic and cultural benefits of freshwater angling, and increase appreciation and awareness of BC freshwater fish and ecosystems.		
Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring (Lower Mainland)	\$15,500	Kerry Baird 604-576-1432 Ext 311
Assess the biophysical (fish and habitat) effectiveness of several habitat restoration projects completed by the Steelhead Recovery/Living Rivers program in the lower mainland. Large woody debris habitat restoration projects funded by HCTF will also be reviewed as ongoing structural integrity monitoring.		
Lynn Creek Mainstem Habitat Restoration	\$23,000	Dave Matsubara 604-294-2088
Increase habitat complexity in a reach of lower Lynn Creek by constructing four large woody debris (LWD) structures and placing two boulder clusters of six boulders per cluster.		
Forage Ecology of Threatened Grizzly Bears in Southwest BC	\$27,942	Don Eastman 250-590-2184
Improving knowledge of diet and foraging ecology of grizzly bears in SW BC, including variation in productivity of the potentially critical forage species, whitebark pine. This information builds on preliminary data gathered and is being conducted in collaboration with longer term monitoring to help guide habitat enhancement and recovery activities.		
Reversing Cultural Oligotrophication: Lower Mainland Stream Nutrient Enrichment	\$25,000	Kerry Baird 604-576-1432 Ext 311
To compensate for low ocean survival and low salmon escapement, aquatic fertilizer will be added to 7 Lower Mainland streams, with subsequent water chemistry, periphyton (chlorophyll a), and juvenile size-at-age monitoring, to improve freshwater conditions and increase ocean survival.		
North Cascades Wolverine Project	\$30,000	Eric Lofroth 250-356-0244
Conduct scientific research on wolverines in the North Cascades Ranges to describe denning habitat, distribution, relative abundance and foraging ecology. This will contribute to improved recreation, land and prey habitat management.		

Restoration of Guichon Creek, A Tributary of Still Creek	\$50,000	Mark Angelo 604-432-8270
Restore native fish and riparian habitat in Guichon Creek which runs through the BCIT campus in Burnaby BC. Guichon Creek has been heavily modified by urbanization during the past 70 years, resulting in a major loss of native fish, and instream fish and riparian habitat.		
Determining Critical Instream Flow Needs Of Nooksack Dace	\$10,060	Jordan Rosenfeld 604-222-6762
Collect data to establish minimum instream flows for endangered Nooksack dace. Extreme low flows (from surface and groundwater extraction) harm both dace and the juvenile salmonids they co-occur with. This project will provide the technical foundation to justify water conservation for fish.		
Investigation of Fraser River White Sturgeon Movements Using Fin Ray Microchemistry	\$25,333	Steven McAdam 604-222-6760
Evaluation of movements of white sturgeon into areas adjacent to the lower Fraser River, including marine waters, to evaluate movement patterns both inside and the outside the sampling area for past population estimates.		
Lower Middle Fraser White Sturgeon Recovery Working Group Support	\$18,000	Erin Stoddard 604-582-5374
Provide supporting resources for the organization, operation and management of the Lower and Middle Fraser River Sturgeon Technical and Community Recovery Working Groups and provide administration support as well as travel support for recovery working group members.		
Fraser River Powerhouse Foreshore Restoration Project	\$24,980	Kim North 250-256-0227
Increase wildlife habitat through the restoration of a 15- hectare site on the banks of the Fraser River, within the District of Lillooet boundaries.		
South Coast Community Bat Project	\$5,000	Susan Leech 604-904-2478
A community-based bat project designed to identify bat roosts on both private and crown land, and assist landowners with conservation strategies.		
Fraser Valley; Habitat Restoration Performance Evaluation & Project Legacy	\$7,627	Kerry Baird 604-576-1433
This project will increase wildlife habitat through the restoration of a 15- hectare site on the banks of the Fraser River, within the District of Lillooet boundaries.		
Grizzly Bear Space-Use & Movements Relative to Habitat & Human Influence in The Sea to Sky Planning Area	\$40,000	Clayton Apps 403-270-8663
Build databases of grizzly bear space-use and movements to subsequently develop and test models of behavioural response to factors of habitat and human influence. Integrate and support outputs for application within landscape-unit and operational-level resource planning.		
Bute Inlet Grizzly Bear Population Abundance, Distribution & Connectivity	\$119,781	Clayton Apps 403-270-8663
Intensive survey of grizzly bear occurrence using DNA hair-snag methods, and subsequent analyses to estimate grizzly bear population density, distribution & connectivity relative to habitat and human activity in and around Bute Inlet drainages.		
<u>Thompson/Nicola</u>		
Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Headquarters	\$7,650	Ted Down 250-387-9715
Maintain fences, gates, cattle guard, dam on property and pay for hydro costs for lake aeration system.		

Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Thompson/Nicola	\$54,850	Stephen Maricle 250-371-6253
Operation and maintenance of existing lake aeration, stream diversions, outlet fence, riparian fencing, open diversion ditches and dam structures that enhance the angling opportunities of high use lakes within the entire Thompson region.		
Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Thompson/Nicola	\$6,000	Doug Jury 250-371-6264
Maintenance and management of conservation lands and restricted areas to ensure public compliance with regulations, protection of natural resources, and enhanced enjoyment by the visiting public.		
Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Bonaparte	\$25,939	Robert G. Bison 250-371-6244
Operation and maintenance of the Bonaparte Fishway and the Bonaparte Lake Dam.		
Region 3 Small Lakes Water Conservation Project	\$102,750	Stephen Maricle 250-371-6253
Planning and development of strategies for recovering or obtaining water conservation opportunities within the high priority watersheds in the Thompson Region.		
Recreational Sport-Fishing Conservation Through Management Of Spiny-Rayed Fishes	\$412,500	Andrew Klassen 250-371-6237
Successfully eradicate spiny-ray fishes in nine lakes and restock with trout. In year 3 of the project the goal is to complete spiny-ray eradication in Forest and Nellies lakes, continue public education and development treatment plans for candidate lakes in 2009.		
Impacts of Pine Beetle Harvesting on Mule Deer Winter Range in the Merritt TSA	\$14,800	Trevor Ball 250-378-5157
On July 1, 2005, an AAC uplift of 1 million m3 was approved for the Merritt TSA. A significant portion of the harvesting will occur in Mule Deer Winter Range. The Lower Nicola Indian Band propose to study the impacts of Mountain Pine beetle harvesting on wintering Mule Deer.		
Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation	\$76,000	Robert G. Bison 250-371-6244
Escapement abundance monitoring for Thompson (Deadman, Nicola, Bonaparte) and Chilcotin steelhead.		
Nicola Lake Kokanee, Burbot & Rainbow Trout Fish & Habitat Assessment & Conservation Plan	\$50,000	Ian McGregor 250-371-6252
Collect baseline data on critical habitat for key sport fish species in Nicola Lake, including kokanee, burbot and rainbow trout, and to assess juvenile and spawner abundance for these species with a focus directed at estimating kokanee spawner numbers in the streams and along the shoreline, assessing habitat and identifying any limitations to production from lake shore developments, lake drawdown, and low stream flows. Ultimately a conservation plan will be produced for Nicola Lake to assist in the management of recreational fishing opportunities.		
An Investigation of Factors Influencing Angler Effort	\$30,000	Hillary Ward 778-838-1739
Identify mechanisms for creating diverse and sustainable angling opportunities and improve knowledge about the preference of various client groups. This allows management strategies to be implemented to relocate effort away from at-risk stocks by creating new fisheries targeted towards specific angling groups on current low effort lakes.		
Predicting Current & Future Forest Use by Western Rattlesnake	\$18,396	Karl W. Larsen 250-828-5456
Determine the pattern of forest habitat use by rattlesnakes, and test the efficacy of a GIS-thermal mapping model in predicting these and other summer movements by snakes.		

Landscapes of Young Forest: Implications for Mature-Forest Species	\$20,160	Karl W. Larsen 250-828-5456
Provide information and recommendations to inform landscape management plans, ensuring critical ecological processes characteristic of mature forests are maintained in landscapes composed of younger age classes.		
Wetlands Institute 2010 – Kamloops Wetland Construction & Stewardship	\$26,600	Carolyn Anne Budgell 1-888-881-2293 X 232
Restore and construct wetlands at 3-5 sites in Kamloops. Participants will learn about wetland ecology and assessment as well as hands-on skills to steward wetlands back in their own communities.		
Quality Waters Strategy Project Thompson River Guardian Program	\$24,860	Robert G. Bison 250-371-6244
River Guardians will patrol during times of fishery closure and will patrol and survey the steelhead fishery in the event of an opening to assist with fishery management and enforcement.		
Population Trend, Vital Rates & Habitat Condition of the Endangered Stein/Nahatlatch Grizzly Bear Population	\$68,150	Bruce McLellan 604-452-3233
Determine rates survival, reproduction, population trend, inter-population movements and changes in the abundance of major food items for the endangered and importantly located Stein/Nahatlatch grizzly bear population to identify major limiting factors to prescribe appropriate recovery actions.		
Assessment of Spike-Fork Harvest Strategy for Bonaparte Moose	\$18,600	Chris Procter 250-371-6250
Assess the relative abundance, age class/antler structure, and escapement of immature bull moose to inform current harvest strategies. MU 3-30 represents the most important moose hunting unit in Region 3 with respect to moose population size, moose harvests and hunter effort. Data and anecdotal reports indicate low bull abundance in this unit.		
Thompson Region Small Lakes Hypolimnetic Oxygen Injection Project	\$80,000	Stephen Maricle 250-371-6253
Maintain overwinter trout survival in Logan Lake and Red Lake which are two of the most productive lakes in the Thompson-Nicola Region. The installation of the hypolimnetic oxygen injection systems will both increase the likelihood of survival and remove the hazardous open water conditions created by the existing surface-type Air-o-lator destratification system.		
Shuswap Lake Angler Questionnaire	\$10,000	Andy Morris 250-371-6325
Continue conducting the Shuswap Lake Angler Questionnaire survey to collect trend data and monitor the catch and effort for rainbow trout and lake char in Shuswap Lake. It is critical to conduct this survey to continue to recover tag data from the 5 year Shuswap Lake tagging program (previously funded by HCTF) to estimate the exploitation rate, which will conclude in 2010. This data will also be invaluable for monitoring the fishery if any regulation changes result from the exploitation rate study.		
Implications of Rainbow Trout Production To Conservation Management of Thompson River Steelhead	\$26,386	Robert G. Bison 250-371-6244
An assessment of the proportions of resident- and anadromous-origin fish in steelhead parr populations and an investigation of the potential implications to the derivation of management reference points for steelhead.		
Shuswap Lake Shoreline Habitat Restoration	\$35,000	Ian McGregor 250-371-6252
Restore high priority areas of sensitive fisheries habitat on Shuswap Lake to improve spawning habitat for lake char and rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. This project will repair the damage caused by decades of unregulated residential and commercial foreshore development around the perimeter of Shuswap Lake.		
Thompson Flow Sensitive Streams	\$36,725	Alan Caverly 250-371-6321
Monitor, record and assess causes and ways to moderate or avoid extended summer low flows and high stream temperatures in flow sensitive interior streams. Analyze information to identify how supply/demand		

balance or other changes can lead to instream flow recovery to benefit fish stocks including rainbow trout, kokanee, steelhead and others. Develop achievable targets for restored instream values in flow sensitive Thompson Basin streams and compare to other flow targets developed earlier.

Logan Lake Inflow Wetland Planning Project \$6,100 Barb Waters 250-828-2551

Construction of an inflow wetland to improve water quality in the wetland itself, and as it is the headwaters for Logan Creek; it will improve water quality in the creek and in the receiving water, Logan Lake.

Improved Access to Red Lake at KM 39 of Red Lake - Copper Cr Rd \$10,000 Barb Waters 250-828-2551

Improve access to the lake for anglers.

Lodgepole Lake Access \$6,500 Barb Waters 250-828-2551

Create day use sites and improve boat launches at both ends of the lake. Also create quality camping opportunities at both sites.

Kootenay

Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Kootenay \$53,500 Jeff Burrows 250-354-6928

Operation and maintenance of two West Kootenay kokanee spawning channels and a rainbow trout rearing channel in the East Kootenay.

Operation & Maintenance – (Wild) Kootenay \$35,530 Rob MacDonald 250-489-8591

Conduct maintenance, planning, monitoring, habitat protection, enhancement and restoration activities on conservation properties in the East Kootenay.

Kootenay Lake Gerrard Rainbow Trout Conservation \$34,000 Jeff Burrows 250-354-6928

Monitor the conservation status of Gerrard rainbow trout by enumerating spawner numbers, estimating harvest, and monitoring critical spawning habitat parameters.

East Kootenay Grassland Ecosystem Restoration \$179,550 Mike Gall 250-489-8540

Conduct prescribed burning and slashing/piling activities in fire maintained ecosystems to enhance habitats for wildlife dependent on open forest and grassland environments.

Noxious Weed Control on Bighorn Sheep Winter Range \$10,000 Irene E. Teske 250-489-8551

To maintain the improved quality of bighorn sheep winter range by conducting an intensive and consistent invasive plant control program in the Wigwam Flats, Bull River and Columbia Lake East.

East Kootenay Conservation Program \$30,000 John Krebs 250-352-6874

EKCP is a partnership of over forty conservation, government and industry organizations dedicated to conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities. EKCP provides coordination and facilitation to support private-land conservation and stewardship.

South Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Project \$25,000 Michael Proctor 250-353-7339

Develop a science-based recovery plan for the South Selkirk & Yahk grizzly bear populations based on existing (6 years) & ongoing research coupled with management actions already underway in the region or proven elsewhere.

Creston Valley WMA Operations & Maintenance	\$40,000	Marc-Andre Beaucher 250-402-6907
The project will replace/repair and maintain ageing infrastructure or enhance existing wetland conditions.		
Kaslo River Bull Trout Electronic Fish Counter Enumeration	\$15,030	Greg Andrusak 250-825-9365
Determination of run timing and numbers of adfluvial bull trout spawners that utilize the Kaslo River. Project combines resistivity counter technology with conventional redd counts and radio telemetry.		
Trans-Border Grizzly Bear Project	\$22,000	Michael Proctor 250-353-7339
The project will support recovery of the small fragmented and threatened south Selkirk and south Purcell/Yahk grizzly bear population by working to reduce excessive human-caused mortality, enhance inter-population connectivity, and improve habitat security through research, management, and education.		
South Rockies Grizzly Bear Inventory	\$35,000	Garth Mowat 250-354-6341
This project will monitor the change in population size of the grizzly bear population in the southern Rocky Mountains of BC. This data will be used to estimate population size and measure the impact of hunter harvest on this population of bears.		
Elk Valley Mountain Sheep Movements	\$60,000	Irene E. Teske 250-489-8551
Monitor 40 GPS radio-collared Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep to study population dynamics, movements and habitat use within 4 active coal mines in the Elk Valley. To date, coal mining activity has not substantially disturbed prime high elevation grassland winter ranges but expansion is planned.		
Fishing & Natural Mortality of Gerrard Rainbow Trout	\$64,424	J.L. Thorley 250-352-6369
A three year study to estimate the proportion of large rainbow trout and bull trout in Kootenay Lake that are caught by anglers. The project findings will have implications for the management of large lake fisheries throughout BC.		
East Kootenay Elk Monitoring Project	\$9,000	Tara Szkorupa 250-489-8553
Assess the response of individual elk and the larger East Kootenay elk population to liberalized cow/calf hunts, focused on non migratory elk and then determine whether harvest is effectively reducing year-round elk pressure in low elevation habitats, where overgrazing and private land depredation is a concern.		
Production, Utilization & Condition of East Kootenay Ungulate Winter Range Ecosystems (Rocky Mountain Trench Rangeland Assessment)	\$35,000	Sue Crowley 250-342-4290
Assess and document the current rangeland condition and forage availability throughout the Rocky Mountain Trench to enable science-based decision making in regards to wildlife and livestock management.		
Kootenay Moose General Open Season Monitoring	\$28,582.50	Tara Szkorupa 250-489-8553
Increase hunting opportunities for moose in the Kootenay Region while ensuring that a new harvest strategy is biologically sustainable and socially acceptable. This project will monitor changes in key moose population parameters and hunting opportunity associated with the new harvest strategy.		
Mule Deer Population Composition Surveys	\$16,700	Garth Mowat 250-356-6341
Collect data on mule deer sex and age ratios in the early winter while bucks still have antlers. This information will be used to determine the impact of hunter harvest on mule deer buck populations given increased hunting opportunity for both sexes beginning 2010 and on population growth later in the study.		
Quality Waters Strategy Project Kootenay Region 2009-2013	\$61,530	Herb Tepper 250-489-8552
River Guardian Program, Kootenay Regional Quality Waters Strategy.		

Long-term Implications of Landscape Change & Hunting on the Behaviour & Population Dynamics of Grizzly Bears **\$27,000** **Bruce McLellan 604-452-3233**

Monitor grizzly bear reproduction, adult female survival, causes of mortality, and movements as part of a long-term study or grizzly bear population dynamics. We will also measure fine scale vegetation features and annual changes in buffaloberry and huckleberry production in order to study the link between forage production and population growth.

Yahk Grizzly Bear Habitat Awareness **\$2,000** **Michael Knapik 250-354-6929**

Produce and install three (3) public education signs within the 'threatened' population unit intended to gain public acceptance of minimizing motorized use in key linkage habitats.

Mountain Grasslands Restoration Education Initiative **\$5,000** **Catherine Pawasarat 250-429-3929**

Build mountain grasslands ecological restoration capacity among non-specialists in the general public through two affordable weekend courses; will also create a 2- 3-acre model of mountain grasslands restoration work to serve as an ongoing educational and motivational tool for ongoing efforts.

Western Screech-owl Habitat Stewardship And Home Range Analysis in the West Kootenay **\$14,000** **Jakob Dulisse 2250-352-6947**

Provide habitat conservation and stewardship opportunities through radio telemetry on Western Screech-owls. Riparian habitat protection and public education outreach will benefit screech-owls and other wildlife and fish species.

Developing a Moose Population Target for The Northern Columbia Mountains **\$16,500** **Robert Serrouya 250-837-6022**

Evidence indicates that managing moose based on a natural disturbance will help recover mountain caribou populations. Although moose populations are being reduced, no formal population target has been calculated despite such need being identified managers; this project will develop such a target.

The Gilpin Grasslands Restoration Project **\$5,000** **Jenny Coleshill 250-442-7969**

Restoration of the Gilpin Grasslands Ecosystem and conserving an endangered grassland ecosystem including multiple Red and Blue listed species, e.g. Tiger Salamander, Lewis Woodpecker and California Bighorn Sheep.

Cariboo

Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Cariboo **\$49,350** **Todd Gale 250-398-4555**

Lake aeration on 5 lakes, operation and maintenance of Haines Cr diversion to the 11 sister lakes; dams, weirs, spawning channels and fish passage restoration on other lakes and streams.

Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Cariboo **\$5,800** **Chris Schmid 250-394-4515**

Completion, replacement and repair of log rail fencing around Conservation Lands in the Chilcotin. Fencing projects are required to protect important fish and wildlife habitat from negative impacts of cattle and feral horse grazing and erosion.

Mid-Fraser River White Sturgeon Radio Telemetry Program **\$10,500** **Lee Williston 250-398-4744**

Identify critical habitats (e.g.; spawning, overwintering etc.), and areas to be protected from future development. Outline critical habitat features (e.g., spawning substrate). Identify key migration routes and migration timing.

Assessment & Control of Invasive Smallmouth Bass in the Beaver Creek/ Quesnel River Watersheds **\$60,000** **Tom Wilkinson 250-398-4696**

Barriers will be installed on three key tributaries in Beaver Creek watershed to prevent upstream movement of illegally introduced invasive smallmouth bass.

Habitat Use & Population Monitoring of Itcha-Ilgachuz Caribou Herd **\$5,000** **Nicola Freeman 250-398-4553**

Develop a multi-partnered Monitoring Program for a 4 year radio-collared caribou study. Create partnerships with interest groups. Establish a working group comprised of partners, and secure additional funding through these partnerships.

Great Basin Spadefoot Ecology & Habitat Conservation Project **\$25,000** **Karl W. Larsen 250-828-5456**

Ministry of Environment and university researchers will conduct two years of field and lab studies to determine habitat use and genetic variability of spadefoots. This information will be used to identify and conserve important wetland and upland habitats.

Quality Waters Strategy Project – Mitchell River Angling Management Plan Development **\$28,803.70** **Lee Williston 250-398-4744**

Collect additional angler use information for the Quesnel and Mitchell River fisheries. Implement recently developed angling management plan and ensure compliance of the angling use plans are proposed Class 2 designations.

Quality Waters Strategy Project – Dean River River Guardian Program **\$76,260** **Lee Williston 250-398-4744**

The primary objectives of the program are to collect the necessary creel information to administer the Dean River Draw and implement the Dean River Angling Management Plan, and to collect biological information regarding Dean River steelhead stock status and fitness and to provide Ministry presence and enforcement.

Finalization of a Bear Viewing Strategy For the Central Coast of British Columbia **\$5,000** **Steven Hodgson 250-982-2701 ext 2223**

Finalize a sub-regional bear viewing strategy along the central coast of B.C.

Interior Rivers Guardian Program **\$48,477** **Lee Williston 250-398-4744**

Conduct comprehensive creel survey on the Chilko River and collect information regarding stock status and fitness. Assess compliance of both the recreational and commercial angling sectors for the Horsefly and Cariboo Rivers. Educate users regarding the significance and importance of these fisheries.

Skeena

Skeena Weirs & Steelhead Stock Assessment **\$68,000** **Mark Beere 250-847-7297**

Operate a fish enumeration weir on the upper Sustut River for the 16th consecutive year to determine the escapement of wild summer steelhead to this system; the Sustut weir serves as an index stream for upper Skeena steelhead stocks.

Assessment of Lake Trout Population Abundance by Summer Profundal Index Netting **\$18,500** **Joe De Gisi 250-847-7288**

Obtain accurate relative abundance and demographic data for 20 road-accessible lake trout populations in the Skeena and Nechako watersheds within Skeena Region, to improve interpretation of the status of the stocks and maintain quality angling opportunities.

The Response of Caribou Terrestrial Forage Lichens to MPB & Forest Harvesting in the East Ootsa & Entiako Areas **\$21,780** **Deborah Cichowski 250-877-7558**

Assess the impacts of MPB and forest harvesting on caribou terrestrial forage lichens on the Tweedsmuir-Entiako caribou winter range by re-measuring permanent sample plots that were previously established in 2001 and re-measured in 2003.

Skeena Region Grizzly Bear Management, Monitoring & Inventory Design Project **\$5,000** **Bill Jex 250-847-7804**

Develop a regional grizzly bear inventory and monitoring strategy that will facilitate the future development of a regional management plan. Inventory needs will be prioritized in relation to the provincial grizzly bear conservation strategy, population status, knowledge gaps, existing information and short/long-term threats.

Kimsquit Grizzly Bear Survey **\$21,000** **Anthony Neil Hamilton 250-387-9761**

Conduct an aerial Inventory of Grizzly bears along the Kimsquit and Dean rivers using rotary wing aircraft. Consists of 3-5 replicate surveys using a Bell Jetranger helicopter. Contract out data analysis and recommendations for future monitoring.

Peace/Omineca

Peace River Prescribed Burns (South/North Peace Burning) **\$85,000** **Robert B. Woods 250-787-3285**

Year three of a five-year burning program to slow the loss of early seral plant communities in the northeast part of the province.

Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Peace Region **\$17,500** **Alan Hobler 250-787-3269**

Ensures site habitat protection (fence repairs, weed control and signage) and implementation of management plans on conservation lands.

Omineca-Peace Lake Trout Status & Conservation Planning **\$50,559** **Ray Phillipow 250-614-9914**

Using SPIN stock assessment techniques, collect requisite lake trout life history and abundance information from unexploited and exploited lakes for the purpose of developing provincial harvest models and local management direction.

Stone's Sheep Ram Habitat Use, Sexual Segregation & Sightability **\$75,000** **Pamela Hengeveld 250-997-3496**

Determine Stone's sheep ram habitat use using resource selection functions, quantify spatial segregation of rams and ewes, and develop a ram sightability correction factor for population estimation.

Wood Bison Conservation & Management In NE BC **\$37,786** **Conrad Thiessen 250-787-3287**

Collect information on wood bison habitat use and seasonal movements, measure the effectiveness of management efforts and develop management plans for the Nordquist and Etthithun bison herds. The overall goal is to reduce human/bison conflicts, and aid recovery of wood bison.

Wildlife Response to Prescribed Burning In the Peace Region (Response of Elk & Stone's Sheep to Prescribed Fire in Northeast BC) **\$57,000** **Katherine L. Parker 250-960-5812**

Define the influence of prescribed burns on elk and Stone's sheep in northeastern BC. It will make recommendations to improve the current prescribed burning program relative to effective timing and frequency as documented by plant and animal responses.

Murray Creek Stream Rehabilitation Project **\$27,966** **Wayne Salewski 250-567-9542**

A diverse group of stakeholders will engage in rehabilitation and revitalization of Murray Creek into a habitat supportive of fish populations. A very visible and accessible water stewardship demonstration site will be developed to illustrate feasibility and benefits of natural resource stewardship to the public.

Improving Burbot Population Management With Two Northern Index Lakes **\$32,300** **Brian Toth 250-562-7513**

Results from this project will improve our understanding of local burbot population dynamics. Knowledge gained will help maintain both sport and sustenance fisheries in the Omineca Region where threats such as the mountain pine beetle epidemic and high fishing effort call for intensive fishery management.

Wolf Movements in Relation to Roads & Corridors on Caribou Range **\$29,000** **Dale Seip 250-565-4125**

Determine if roads, corridors and forest harvesting facilitate movements of wolves into caribou habitat. Information will be used to develop management recommendations within caribou recovery plans.

Savory Ridge Ungulate Winter Range Habitat Enhancement **\$27,000** **Ray Klingspohn 250-567-9505**

As a result of fire exclusion and the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, fuel loading has increased and placed the community along the north shore of Francois Lake and the designated Ungulate Winter Range at risk of catastrophic wildfire. Improve the quality and function of the Mule Deer ungulate winter range and reduce the fuel loading in stands within the range.

Vanderhoof Wetlands Project **\$23,960** **Wayne Salewski 250-567-9542**

Restore and enhance a wetland habitat for public enjoyment and education. Realizing the potential value of this natural resource will be a significant step towards becoming a healthier community.

North American Mink Population Densities, Habitat Selection & Diet in Central BC **\$37,716** **Dexter Hodder 250-996-0028**

Develop and implement methods to assess habitat selection, population densities and diet content of American mink in central British Columbia. We will use resource selection models, mark-recapture techniques, and stable isotope analyses to achieve these objectives.

Grizzly Bear Selection of Clearcuts & Use Of Pine Stands in Central British Columbia **\$19,754** **Lana M. Ciarniello 250-964-8404**

Assist with the formulation of management recommendations based on 6 years of existing radiotelemetry monitoring of grizzly bears to determine selection or avoidance of cutblocks along with attributes of those blocks, foraging strategies of bears when using blocks, and a comparison of bear use of mature or regenerating pine versus other stand types.

Terrestrial Lichen Response After Mountain Pine Beetle With & Without Caribou Foraging **\$6,200** **Benita Kaytor 250-565-6583**

Evaluate and compare vegetation response following MPB in caribou grazed and ungrazed pine lichen sites in the sub boreal spruce (SBS) biogeoclimatic zone in north-central BC.

Okanagan

SOSCP Habitat Stewardship (SOCS Stewardship on Private Land) **\$45,000** **Alyson Skinner 250-492-0173**

Increase the amount of private land in the South Okanagan Similkameen area that is maintained and ultimately protected as functional habitat for wildlife species at risk.

Operation & Maintenance – (Fish) Okanagan **\$65,350** **Tara White 250-490-2287**

Operation and maintenance of HCTF funded fisheries projects throughout the Okanagan region.

Operation & Maintenance – (Wildlife) Okanagan	\$40,000	John Trehwitt 250-490-8249
Critical land management activities on conservation holdings in the South Okanagan will include: restoration; invasive species management; fencing installation/maintenance; signage; and safety issues.		
South Okanagan Ranchland Conservation Project	\$12,000	Carl MacNaughton 250-498-5474
To support further implementation of HCTF-funded Management Plans on two Biodiversity Ranches in the South Okanagan.		
Mabel Lake Rainbow Trout Stock Status & Maintaining Recreational Angling Opportunities	\$45,000	Paul Askey 250-490-8267
Critical land management activities on lands acquired or leased by the ministry for conservation purposes in the Okanagan Region. Management activities include; ecosystem restoration, invasive species management, legal survey, fencing installation, maintenance, installation of boundary and interpretive signage and mitigation of safety issues.		
Okanagan Region Bighorn Sheep Transplant Monitoring	\$8,000	Aaron Reid 250-490-8230
Continue to monitor two bighorn sheep transplants into Shorts Creek and Okanagan Mtn. Park to assess transplant success, herd productivity, herd distribution and habitat use, and collect demographic data for future management.		
Okanagan River Restoration Initiative - Fisheries Component	\$68,492	Kari Alex 250-490-9779 Ext 301
Vertical Drop Structure 13 (VDS13) is a man-made weir located within the most critical reach of Okanagan River, A team of engineers, hydrologists and biologists have identified cost effective ways to modify it that would enhance trout and salmon habitat and improve its flood control function.		
Mission Creek Habitat Restoration Coordinator	\$20,025	Tara White 250-490-2287
Retain a coordinator to facilitate a major restoration project on the most important fish producing tributary to Okanagan Lake.		
Priority Management & Conservation of Okanagan Region Kokanee	\$25,000	Paul Askey 250-490-8267
Focus on establishing sustainable exploitation rates on Wood Lake (Okanagan Region's top fishery) as well as developing key stock assessment tools for managing all the main valley lakes.		
Kettle River Water Management Plan - Kettle River Streamflow Protection Plan "Towards Fish Habitat Restoration"	\$38,150	Tara White 250-490-2287
Development of a streamflow protection plan for the Kettle River Watershed, which takes into consideration fisheries values & habitat requirements as well as existing & future water supply for domestic and agricultural users. The plan will encompass proactive measures, including a staged reduction scenario for water users and key messaging to stakeholders when faced with a low streamflow situation (drought year).		
South Okanagan Regional Biodiversity Conservation Strategy	\$30,990	Margaret Holm 250-493-3313
A biodiversity conservation strategy will provide a plan for protecting the health and resiliency of important wildlife habitat areas within the South Okanagan and Similkameen and a strategy for decision-makers to work together to enhance and preserve the wildlife legacy of this region.		
Chain Lake Aeration/Oxygenation Design	\$8,750	Rolf Rybak 604-980-4186
Determine the over-winter oxygen depletion rate for Chain Lake from data collected in the winter of 2009/10 and prepare the blueprint design for an aeration or oxygenation system that will prevent winterkill of trout and will not create an open-ice hazard in the lake while the system is operating.		

Granby/Shuswap Mule Deer Composition \$27,150

Brian Harris 250-490-8254

Surveys

Collect information on mule deer sex and age ratios in December (post hunt, but while bucks still have antlers) to compare with the Provincial management objectives (MOE 2009) and with similar mule deer classification data being collected in Region. The information will be used to determine the impact of hunter harvest on mule deer populations under different harvest regimes and if a different set of hunting regulations where hunter harvest and success is below the Region average would be appropriate to ensure mule deer sustainability.



Media Alert: Members of the media are encouraged to contact proponents directly. Project proponents have detailed knowledge of the project benefits, may be able to arrange site tours, and often have high quality images available.