



NEWS RELEASE

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Annual Silver Award Recipients Announced

Multi - In keeping with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund's 25th Anniversary Celebration, the Silver Award has been created in honour of the long-time manager of HCTF, Rod Silver who retired in 2003. This award recognizes those proponents who have achieved exemplary conservation in fish, wildlife, stewardship and education projects.

This award is given to the proponent who met the criteria; clearly defining the objectives in the proposal, reporting showing the project achieved the objectives and that the outcomes were met. Whether the project made a difference, that the results had a clear benefit to species, habitat and ecosystem. Were the benefits worth the costs, was there a clear well thought out evaluation component, were those results communicated to the appropriate people, funding partners, community support, and any long-term plans for the project.

The winners of the first ever Silver Awards are as follows:

Fisheries Category - the Okanagan Lake Action Plan project, which seeks to re-establish healthy kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake. The Project Leaders are Dale Sebastian, Steve Matthews, Ian McGregor and Andrew Wilson, all from the Ministry of Environment

Wildlife Category - the Board Awards subcommittee decided that there was a tie this year, and so there are 2 winners in the wildlife category. The winners are the Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery (Project Leader: Darryl Reynolds, Ministry of Environment), and the BC/Yukon Gyrfalcon Productivity Monitoring for Falconry Harvest, (Project Leader: Myke Chutter, Ministry of Environment);

Stewardship Category - the winner is the Cowichan Estuary - Eelgrass Restoration Project (Project Leader: Ann Archibald, Cowichan Community Land Trust Society). This project is designed to enhance eelgrass habitat in the Cowichan Estuary, a critical area for migrating waterfowl.

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