

BACKGROUND

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Projects for 2004-2005

Note: One of the principles of the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is to encourage partnerships on all conservation and enhancement projects, both money and in-kind contributions. Most of the projects approved for funding have other partners. The descriptions below list only the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund contribution to the project.

Provincial-Scope Projects

Fisheries

- **0-120: Quality Waters Strategy (River Guardian Program)** - Funding from a dedicated surcharge to provide information essential for the maintenance and improvement of angling opportunities on classified and other quality waters in the Lower Mainland, Thompson-Nicola, Kootenay, Cariboo and Skeena regions - \$222,230.
- **0-268: Lake Trout Conservation Plan** - A new project to develop and evaluate biological reference points for lake trout conservation and sport-fishery management by synthesizing data from areas throughout British Columbia - \$22,875.
- **0-297: Steelhead and Sturgeon Acoustic Tracking Array for British Columbia** - A new project to track the early ocean habitat use, migration pathways and early ocean survival of Keogh River Steelhead and Dolly Varden smolts using acoustic tags and array of receivers - \$97,000.

Wildlife

- **0-113: Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy** - Funding from a dedicated surcharge to provide continued support for the implementation of the grizzly bear conservation strategy's mandate to ensure the continued existence of grizzly bears and their habitats; also funded through the strategy are three specific projects involving grizzly bears (listed separately) - \$75,000.
- **0-267: Ungulate Distribution and Relative Abundance Map Series** - A new project to digitize current abundance/distribution maps of ungulates in B.C. - \$10,000.
- **0-270: Ungulate Population Assessment** - Funding provided to undertake a quantitative assessment of ungulate population status and harvest management of ungulates in B.C. - \$15,000.
- **0-272: A Framework for Post-Fire Assessment and Rehabilitation Planning, Implementation and Monitoring** - Funding is provided to compile information

on approaches for ecologically sound post-fire rehabilitation of the effects of wildland fire and fire suppression activities - \$8,000.

Stewardship

- **0-51: Wild BC** - Continued support for Wild BC, which, on a cost-recovery basis, provides educational materials on fish, wildlife and their habitats to teachers, Scout/Guide leaders and youth - \$130,000.
- **0-191: Provincial Amphibian Monitoring Program** - Support to establish a province-wide network of volunteers to collect and submit information on amphibian species and populations - \$27,500.
- **0-229: Family Fishing Weekend** - Continued support to encourage participation in recreational fishing and foster an appreciation for the aquatic ecosystems of the province - \$20,000.
- **3-230: Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Partnership Program** - Continued support to work in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada towards wetland conservation in BC and implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, through acquisition, enhancement and management projects - \$150,000.
- **4-375: Puddle Project Volunteer Stewards Training** - Support to provide volunteer stewards with training in wetland ecology, GPS technology to locate wetlands, and ways to access land-use planning processes to conserve wetlands - \$30,000.
- **Public Conservation Assistance Fund** - Continued support for the partnership between the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Public Conservation Assistance Fund to fund volunteer fish and wildlife conservation projects - \$100,000.

Vancouver Island

Acquisition

- **1-336: Cowichan River Conservation Area Additions** - Funding towards an ongoing land acquisition strategy to consolidate properties along the Cowichan River - \$100,000.

Fisheries

- **0-131: Keogh River Steelhead Population Dynamics** - Continued support for the Steelhead index system on the Keogh River during a critical period of conservation concern and rehabilitation evaluation - \$100,000.
- **1-161: Vancouver Island Steelhead Recovery Plan** - Continued support for wild Steelhead stock assessment, habitat restoration and evaluation, and sport fishery development projects on the east coast of Vancouver Island - \$250,000.
- **1-295: East Coast Vancouver Island Salmon Carcass Program Implementation** - Coordination and development of salmon carcass distribution

- programs on East Coast Vancouver Island rivers to extend the marine nutrient "shadow" of Pacific salmon in each of the target watersheds. - \$2,065.
- **1-370: Vancouver Island Dolly Varden Recovery Plan** - A new project to develop a recovery plan for Dolly Varden stocks on Vancouver Island - \$37,674.
 - **1-373: Mainland Coast Low-Level Nutrient Sampling** - A new project that will sample seven mainland coast rivers during the juvenile salmonid growing season to determine low-level nutrient levels, and assess whether stream enrichment is a suitable habitat restoration strategy - \$11,756.
 - **1-375: Englishman River Bank Stabilization** - A new project to develop prescriptions to address surface flow and groundwater dynamics at the top of a high, sloughing bank on the Englishman River, Vancouver Island - \$4,125.
 - **1-376: Stream Enrichment Program Implementation** - A multi-year program to increase primary production and ultimately wild Steelhead smolt production by applying a concentrated pollock bone meal fertilizer to at least nine major Steelhead watersheds on the east coast of Vancouver Island - \$13,770.
 - **1-377: Quatse Lake Storage Dam Feasibility Assessment** - A new project to complete a feasibility report to identify the storage potential on Quatse Lake to augment summer low flows, identified as a critical limiting factor to Steelhead production in the Quatse River - \$10,000.
 - **1-378: Toquart Lake Outlet Spawning Gravel Placement (2004)** - 100 m³ of high quality spawning gravel will be added to Toquart Lake outlet to improve spawning conditions for Steelhead, coho and lake-resident trout - 9,500.
 - **1-382: Cluxewe River Habitat Restoration Prescriptions** - A new project that will identify stream restoration opportunities in the lower Cluxewe River and prescribe habitat enhancements that target juvenile Steelhead - \$5,704.
 - **1-385: Glen Lake Aerator Replacement** - A new project to replace the aerator in Glen Lake, that is essential to maintaining oxygen levels for fish - \$48,000.
 - **1-72: Operation and Maintenance (Vancouver Island - Fish)** - Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the HCTF on Vancouver Island, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$17,425.

Wildlife

- **1-352: Blue Grouse Inventory on Southeastern Vancouver Island (Habitat Objectives)** - A new project that will assess the relationship of population levels to habitat variables by using point-count hooting surveys in varying habitat on SE Vancouver Island during two breeding seasons - \$27,940.
- **1-115: Operation and Maintenance (Vancouver Island - Wildlife)** - Continued funding towards activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, dangerous tree removal and fencing - \$35,275.

Stewardship

- **1-42: Wetland Management Program** - Continued support for this partnership program that develops and implements management, protection and enhancement

- plans for more than 25 critical wetlands along the coastline of Vancouver Island - \$25,000.
- **1-166: Comox Valley Stewardship Project** - Continued funding for activities that increase landowner awareness about sensitive habitats in the Comox Valley - \$40,000.
 - **1-239: Salt Spring Stewardship Project 2004** - This project will assist landholders in identifying, sustaining, and enhancing natural habitats on their land - \$10,000.
 - **1-245: Habitat for Wildlife in the Millard/Piercy Watershed** - Funding will help landowners learn about and protect threatened species in wildlife corridors of the Millard/Piercy Watershed - \$25,000.
 - **1-248: Vancouver Island Wildlife Viewing Network** - Over 30 properties (Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection Wildlife Reserves and Nature Trust properties) will be linked through wildlife viewing and education tours to support sustainable land management programs - \$12,000.
 - **1-318: Wildlife Tree Stewardship Initiative (WiTS)** - Funds to create, coordinate, and assist a network of community stewards committed to conserving coastal wildlife tree habitats through volunteer monitoring, landowner agreements, and community education along the Strait of Georgia - \$25,000.
 - **1-356: Wetlands Institute: Project Development and Implementation** - Funding to build wetland conservation projects around BC and train individuals to develop and implement projects in their home communities - \$10,000.
 - **1-364: Stewardship Progression Report** - This project will encourage Land Stewards, identified in over 10 years of previous landowner contact projects, to deepen and broaden their stewardship efforts in the Cowichan Valley - \$20,000.
 - **1-367: Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Stewardship Project** - A new project to conduct stewardship and monitoring, create educational materials and interpretive programs on the ecology and cultural history of the area, and promote guidelines for responsible wildlife viewing and recreation in and around the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area.- \$25,450.
 - **1-384: Vancouver Island Riparian Prescriptions and Planting Program** - Funding to prepare a riparian prescription report for key areas of concern in seven east coast Vancouver Island watersheds and to coordinate volunteer groups to complete priority prescriptions - \$11,732.

Lower Mainland

Fisheries

- **2-250: Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery - Steelhead Stock Monitoring/Conservation Status** - Continued funding for stock assessment, population recovery, restoration opportunities, and new Steelhead fishery development activities on high priority streams in the Lower Mainland - \$ 338,246.
- **2-271: Birkenhead Bull Trout Spawner Assessment** - A new project that will assess wild indigenous bull trout and kokanee spawners in Phelix Creek, a main

- tributary to Birkenhead Lake, to determine the effectiveness of conservation measures - \$18,212.
- **2-276: Cheakamus River Steelhead Escapement Estimation (Telemetry/Swims)** - Continued funding to determine Steelhead escapement to the Cheakamus River and relate this to similar escapement estimations from previous years and to Cheakamus Steelhead stock conservation status - \$49,336.
 - **2-321: Stabilizing the Tolmie Clay Slide** - A new project to prevent serious clay slide erosion at the Tolmie Clay slide on the Chilliwack River, which threatens river habitat downstream - \$25,000.
 - **2-327: Effectiveness Assessment of Off-Channel Habitat Structures, and Development of a Decision-Support Tool for Evaluating Appropriate Design** - A new project that will lead to increased production of juvenile salmonids from off-channel habitats by ensuring designs are optimal for project goals and target species - \$40,000.
 - **2-333: Protection of Habitat in the Fraser River through Better Discrimination of Sediment (Gravel) Deposition** - Seed funding to explore ways to fine tune and update the fluvial geomorphic and hydraulic information to minimize the impact on fish and low-land ecosystem attributes - \$5,000.
 - **2-334: Development and Testing of a Science-Based Process for Gravel Removal Proposals on the Lower Fraser River** - Funding to be used towards developing and testing a science-based process for designing gravel removal proposals on the lower Fraser River - \$15,000.

Wildlife

- **2-127: Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery** - Continued support for previous work funded by HCTF, and additional assistance from local sportsman's clubs, the guide outfitter and numerous others, to establish viable elk populations in priority areas of the Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland region by trapping and translocating elk from urban areas to remote wilderness areas - \$43,785.
- **2-324: Grizzly Bear Population Density and Distribution in the Southern Coast Ranges** - Funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to gather data to predict grizzly bear population density and distribution relative to habitat and human activity - \$69,000.
- **2-97: Operation and Maintenance (Lower Mainland - Wildlife)** - Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, facilities repair, and fencing - \$59,442.

Stewardship

- **2-235: Green Links** - Continued support for a project that, through community involvement, hopes to re-establish connectivity in watersheds and reduce impacts of habitat fragmentation - \$20,000.
- **2-316: Planning and Assessment of Restoration and Rehabilitation Objectives for the Como Watershed Lowlands** - Funding will be used to assess

- present restoration activities in the Como watershed, including those targeted towards invasive species control and species of conservation concern - \$20,000.
- **2-325: Lower Mainland Education Program 2003-2005** - Funds are to develop interpretive site plans and multilingual informational handouts on coastal conservation and education initiatives for Reifel Sanctuary and Serpentine Wildlife Area - \$10,000.
 - **2-337: City of Surrey's Salmon Habitat Restoration Program (SHARP)** - A new project involving students to promote watershed stewardship and habitat enhancement for fish species within the City of Surrey - \$10,000.
 - **2-345: Community-Based Action Program for Shorelines-CAPS** - Funds will be used towards a communication and outreach program to assist groups in protecting, conserving and restoring BC's marine and freshwater shorelines using conservation marketing tools and techniques - \$16,000.

Thompson-Nicola

Fisheries

- **0-241: Effects of Angling on Rainbow Trout Production in Mixed Species Lakes** - Continued support for determining, once rainbow trout are removed by angling, whether other species expand their habitat use and reduce habitat capability for Rainbow Trout in small lakes - \$35,308.
- **0-250: Thompson River Juvenile Steelhead Stock Assessment** - Continued funding for a multi-year, diver count assessment of Steelhead parr standing stock to provide estimate of Steelhead carrying capacity for the Thompson River watershed - \$50,000.
- **3-194: Wild Kokanee Spawning and Habitat Assessment** - Continued support for Kokanee spawning habitat assessments and spawner number enumeration in streams tributary to 13 lakes in the North and South Thompson watershed - \$87,800.
- **3-242: Spius Creek Resistivity Counter** - Seed funding to investigate the feasibility of constructing a modern fish counter for a key spawning tributary of the Nicola River watershed - \$5,000.
- **3-246: Thompson Streamflow Recovery Plans** - A new project to evaluate water availability and improve lake and streamflow management to benefit wild fish stocks in the Deadman River and Sinmax watersheds - \$40,000.
- **3-247: Isobel Lake/Dairy Creek Diversion Reconstruction** - A new project to rebuild the Isobel Lake / Dairy Creek diversion with a longer lasting concrete structure and to recreate the local angling opportunities that Isobel Lake previously provided - \$32,625.
- **3-251: Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation** - Funding provided for escapement monitoring programs for Thompson (Deadman, Nicola, Bonaparte rivers) and Chilcotin Steelhead - \$72,500.
- **3-252: Shuswap Lake Rainbow and Lake Trout Stock Status and Their Recreational Fishing Potential** - Funds are provided to collect information from

anglers and from tagged fish to more effectively manage the main stocks of fish in Shuswap Lake - \$62,000.

- **0-2, 3-94 and 3-154: Operations and Maintenance (Thompson-Nicola - Fish)** - Funding for the Bonaparte Fishway, Bonaparte Lake Dam, Menzies Lake fisheries facilities and other fisheries enhancements such as lake aerators, stream diversions, and riparian fencing previously funded by the HCTF - \$77,340.

Wildlife

- **0-282: Ecological Relationships Between Grizzly Bears and Forest Management in the Coast-Interior Transition of Southern British Columbia** - Funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to evaluate existing grizzly bear/forestry best management practices in the coast-interior transition of southern BC (Lillooet Forest District) by conducting a scientific investigation of the ecology of grizzly bears - \$30,000.
- **3-108: Hamilton Commonage Grassland Monitoring Project: Developing a Qualitative Approach for Assessing Grassland Ecological Condition** - This project will develop a qualitative approach for assessing grassland ecological condition for ranchers and range managers that is practical, easy to use, and tested in BC, using the Hamilton Commonage near Merritt - \$20,900.
- **3-224: Stewardship and Restoration of "Columbian" Sharp-tailed Grouse Populations and Habitat** - In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, continued funding towards research, local stewardship, monitoring and habitat enhancement/restoration activities to increase "Columbian" sharp-tailed grouse populations to viable levels - \$45,006.
- **3-236: North Thompson Caribou-Wolf Interactions** - Seed funding to prepare the background information necessary to develop a study on the interactions between wolves and the Mountain Caribou population in the North Thompson Watershed - \$5,000.
- **3-114: Operations and Maintenance (Thompson-Nicola - Wildlife)** - Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, facilities repair, and fencing - \$8,925.

Stewardship

- **3-221: Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program - Public Awareness Campaign** - Funds to be used towards a public awareness campaign to raise the issue of wildlife-vehicle accidents - \$10,000.
- **3-249: BC Grasslands Education and Outreach Project: A Catalyst for Change** - Funds will be used to extend the results of key conservation initiatives to help mitigate the loss of grassland habitat to impending threats, as well as build a constituency of support for grasslands in BC - \$20,000.

Kootenay

Acquisition

- **4-329: Hoodoo / Hofert Property** - Funding towards securement of this 4137-ha property in the Columbia Valley that will conserve critical wildlife winter / spring ranges, migration corridors and critical habitat for several listed species - \$200,000.

Fisheries

- **4-141: Upper Columbia River White Sturgeon Restoration** - Continued support for work with a variety of Canadian and U.S. partners to develop and implement a recovery plan to restore White Sturgeon in the upper Columbia River - \$120,000.
- **4-248: Kootenay Lake Gerrard Rainbow Trout Conservation** - Operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Gerrard Rainbow Trout spawning run and monitoring of the Gerrard fishery - \$32,320.
- **4-277: Culvert Replacement and Habitat Restoration on Small Feeder Streams to the Lardeau River** - A new project to increase juvenile Gerrard Rainbow Trout rearing habitat by systematically replacing some culverts on Highway 31 and modifying critical habitat - \$26,410.
- **4-287: Lower Mark Creek Habitat Restoration Project** - Continued funding to improve habitat for Westslope Cutthroat Trout in a heavily impacted urban stream in Kimberley BC - \$19,980.
- **4-330: Implementation of a Conservation Plan for Gerrard Rainbow Trout** - New project funding to develop a plan to ensure conservation of Gerrard Rainbow Trout, a provincially significant trout population - \$20,000.
- **4-346: Kootenay Region Electronic Fish Counter Development** - Development of a resistivity counter station for the enumeration of Gerrard Rainbow Trout in the Lardeau River, West Kootenay - \$45,880.
- **4-64: Operation and Maintenance (Kootenay - Fish)** - Funding for fisheries facilities such as spawning channels previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund at Kokanee, Redfish and Bridge creeks and Whiteswan Lake - \$48,663.

Wildlife

- **4-121: West Kootenay Ungulates** - Continued support for the use of prescribed burning to enhance critical winter habitats of ungulates in the West Kootenay - \$33,000.
- **4-296: Slocan Valley Elk Study** - Continued funding for a program to monitor elk population trend and demographics to improve problem elk management and harvest management in the Slocan Valley - \$50,400.
- **4-299: East Kootenay Grassland Ecosystem Restoration** - Support for slashing and prescribed burns in fire-maintained ecosystems in the East Kootenay to enhance ungulate winter range characteristics and restore overall ecosystem function - \$50,000.
- **4-332: Yearly Snowpack Variation and the Habitat Needs of Mountain Caribou** - A new project to determine whether there is an increased need for low-

elevation caribou habitat in winters following very deep snowpacks that reduce the availability of Bryoria lichen - \$30,050.

- **4-338: Mountain Goat Aerial Survey: 2004** - Funding to conduct an aerial inventory of mountain goats on summer ranges in three management units in the East Kootenay - \$50,000.
- **4-339: East Kootenay Mountain Goat Habitat Project** - Funding to monitor status of GPS radio collared goats and conduct summer goat inventories and sightability trials in the East Kootenay - \$30,000.
- **4-223: Operation and Maintenance (Kootenay - Wildlife)** - Continued funding for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife in the East Kootenay, such as weed control and fencing - \$35,530.

Stewardship

- **4-345: East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP)** - Funding to provide coordination and facilitation for partners to find approaches to ecosystem conservation and stewardship on private land in the East Kootenay - \$20,000.

Cariboo

Fisheries

- **5-117: Quesnel Lake Rainbow Trout Conservation** - Funding is provided to improve key monitoring and assessment strategies that were initiated during a previous study and to develop species harvest plans for the Quesnel Lake sport fishery - \$30,000.
- **5-44: Operation and Maintenance (Cariboo - Fish)** - Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators, dams, weirs and diversions - \$41,850.

Wildlife

- **5-119: Cariboo Badger Project** - Funding is provided to determine distribution, relative abundance, habitat requirements, prey base and to develop Best Management Practices to maintain/enhance habitat suitability for badgers in the Cariboo - \$27,500.
- **5-178: Churn Creek Protected Area Ecosystem Restoration Project** - This project will help restore grassland ecosystems and mule deer habitats impacted by forest ingrowth and encroachment, by mechanical means and prescribed fire - \$19,800.
- **5-115: Operations and Maintenance (Cariboo - Wildlife)** - Continued funding for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife in the Cariboo, such as weed control and fencing - \$5,985.

Stewardship

- **5-174: The Cariboo Cattlemen's "Cows and Fish" Riparian Program** - Funding will be towards initiating voluntary sustainable and economical agricultural land management practices that result in healthy water, riparian areas, fisheries values and wildlife - \$14,000.

Skeena

Fisheries

- **2-342: Genetic Analysis of Lake Trout Population Structure in Atlin Lake** - Seed funding to determine the extent and pattern of genetic subdivision of lake trout within Atlin Lake - \$5,000.
- **6-79: Skeena Steelhead Conservation and Rainbow Trout Genetics** - Funding to conduct molecular genetic analyses of summer run Steelhead returning to the Skeena River to improve knowledge of stock structure, stock-specific run timing and stock status as part of the Skeena Steelhead Stock Assessment Framework - \$48,920.
- **6-97: Skeena Weirs and Steelhead Stock Assessment** - Continued support to operate a weir on the Sustut River to enumerate and assess the escapement of summer-run Steelhead returning to the Skeena River - \$68,000.
- **6-152: Skeena Region Burbot Stock Assessment** - Seed funding to complete Skeena region's first Burbot stock assessments and develop a regional Burbot stock assessment program - \$5,000.
- **6-153: Doris Lake Trout Recovery Plan** - Seed funding to examine options and propose a recovery plan to re-establish Lake Trout in Doris Lake, a rare small lake (<100ha) population - \$3,600.
- **6-156: Highway 37 Fish Passage Restoration Program - Site Design and Project Monitoring Component** - Funding to develop a Routine Effectiveness Evaluation protocol to systematically evaluate fish passage restoration projects - \$5,000.
- **6-167: Lakelse Lake Cutthroat Stock Assessment** - A new project to complete juvenile density estimations at 17 index sites that were initially assessed in 1983, with the long term intent of completing the assessment procedure periodically to indicate trends in the Lakelse Cutthroat Trout population health - \$6,670.
- **6-169: The 2004 Kitwanga River Steelhead Trout Enumeration and Counter Validation Project** - Funding is provided to operate and validate the Kitwanga River Steelhead resistivity counter for the spring of 2004 - \$13,990.

Wildlife

- **6-67 and 6-72: Ecological Reserve Raccoon Monitoring and Raccoon Control** - Continued support for the monitoring and control of raccoons on the Queen Charlotte Islands to ensure they are not interfering with breeding colonies of seabirds - \$14,000.
- **6-148: Upland Game Bird Responses to Sub-Boreal Forest Landscape Harvesting Patterns and Calibration of Grouse Relative Abundance Indices** -

- Seed funding to develop a study on the impacts of forest harvest patterns on grouse populations and a calibration of relative abundance indicators to establish actual population abundance - \$5,000.
- **6-150: North Coast Ungulate Winter Habitat Verification and Modeling** - Funding for field verification of ungulate winter habitat suitability to test models to support Ungulate Winter Range establishment under the Forest and Range Practices Act - \$30,000.
 - **6-159: BC/Yukon Gyrfalcon Productivity Monitoring for Falconry Harvest** - Funding is provided to conduct helicopter productivity surveys for Gyrfalcons at aeries in the North Coast Mountain population of SW Yukon and NW BC - \$5,000.
 - **6-160: Kispiox Ungulate Habitat Interpretation and Model Testing** - This project will test habitat identification methods in the Kispiox and Cranberry Timber Supply Areas to support formal Ungulate Winter Range designation under the Forest and Range Practices Act - \$40,000.
 - **6-161: Kalum Grizzly Bear Habitat Identification and Field Assessments** - Funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to stratify and rank grizzly bear habitat values and field verify identified habitats in the Kalum North and South Timber Supply Areas, to enable Wildlife Habitat Area establishment under the Forest and Range Practices Act - \$40,000.

Omineca

Fisheries

- **7-97: Operations and Maintenance (Omineca - Fish)** - Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as dams/barriers at St. George Creek, Hart Lake, and Shesta Lake, spawning habitat evaluation and maintenance at Chubb Lake and Bateman Creek - \$2,800.

Stewardship

- **7-239: Northern Bear Awareness Education Project in Prince George** - Support to provide bear awareness education to the citizens of Prince George, with focus on school children and summer camp participants, as well as all ages of attendees at summer events in the Prince George area - \$27,105.
- **7-269: Update, Revise and Reformat the BC Trapper Education Manual** - Funding to be used towards revising and updating the Trapper Education manual, converting it to a digital format which will provide for more comprehensive and efficient future revision, and facilitating production, storage, and distribution - \$35,645.

Peace

Fisheries

- **7-201: Burnt and Sukunka Rivers Arctic Grayling Assessment** - Continued support to monitor Arctic Grayling population abundance and structure in the Burnt and Sukunka rivers - \$12,250.
- **7-202: Migration Patterns of Northeastern B.C. Inconnu** - Continued support to observe Inconnu seasonal movement patterns to determine the location of spawning, staging and overwintering areas in northeastern B.C. - \$14,000.
- **7-260: Chowade River Bull Trout Assessment** - Seed funding to develop a proposal to assess the status and enumerate the core Chowade River spawning Bull Trout population in Halfway River watershed - \$5,000.
- **7-264: Walleye Migrations in the Petitot River** - Funding provided to prepare and synthesize the background information necessary to develop a study that will determine Walleye spawning locations and migrations to over-wintering areas to allow more informed management decisions - \$20,000.
- **7-98: Operations and Maintenance (Peace - Fish)** - Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as the Inga Lake spawning channel, aerators at Inga and Sundance lakes, weirs and spillways at Stewart and Inga lakes, and Swan Lake fishway - \$28,050.

Wildlife

- **0-1: Fire Mop-up** - In partnership with the Guide-Outfitters Association of BC, funding goes towards pre-burn site preparation and post-burn mop-up operations for approved HCTF prescribed burns in northern BC- \$50,000.
- **1-363: Caribou Populations and Ecology, Northern Muskwa-Kechika** - Funding is provided to characterize population, status and trends, home and seasonal ranges, and habitat uses of the Muskwa caribou herd through winter population census and telemetry relocations - \$28,000.
- **7-12: Peace River Prescribed Burns** - Continued funding for the use of prescribed burning to enhance key wintering habitats for ungulates in the Peace Region - \$60,000.
- **7-236: Defining the Predator Landscape for Ecosystem Planning** - Continued support for determining the distribution, movement and habitat selection of wolves and grizzly bears in the northern Rockies in relation to ungulate prey - \$28,000.
- **7-266: Status of Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Peace Region** - Seed funding to develop a study for a lek and population inventory, improved understanding of sharp-tailed grouse habitat use, regional land use impacts and productivity variables - \$5,000.
- **7-286: Managing Ungulate Winter Ranges on Private Property - A Problem Analysis for the Peace Lowlands** - Seed funding to examine the extent of critical ungulate winter range on private property to identify management gaps and provide recommendations for stewardship - \$5,000.
- **7-139: Operations and Maintenance (Peace - Wildlife)** - Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fence maintenance - \$20,000.

Okanagan

Fisheries

- **0-224: Okanagan Lake Action Plan Phase 2** - Continued studies and activities to rebuild and maintain Kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake - \$325,500.
- **8-203: Middle Vernon Creek Stream Restoration Project** - Continued support to restore riparian function to a section of Middle Vernon Creek by stabilizing stream bank, planting riparian vegetation and fencing - \$43,325.
- **8-262: Penticton Creek Restoration Plan** - A new project to remove 8900 metres of concrete flume and replace with rock rip-rap, riffles, pools and spawning beds, returning the creek to a more natural setting and improving spawning habitat for Kokanee and resident Rainbow Trout - \$40,000.
- **8-124: Operation and Maintenance** - Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators at Yellow, Gardom, Burnell, and Kidd lakes, and dams and water diversions throughout the regions - \$59,330.

Wildlife

- **2-228: South Okanagan Ranch Land Conservation Project** - Support for implementing management plans on 2 biodiversity ranches in the south Okanagan near Okanagan Falls - \$12,000.
- **2-338: Vaseux Fire Restoration Demonstration Project** - Funding provided for a multi-organizational, long term monitoring project of post wildfire ecosystem recovery for the conservation of California Bighorn Sheep and other Species at Risk - \$28,650.
- **2-347: Habitat Needs of Breeding Listed Okanagan Birds** - Funding to assess the habitat requirements of listed birds breeding in the south Okanagan through point-count surveys and measures of reproductive success - \$20,000.
- **8-243: Food Habits of Badgers in British Columbia** - This project will identify diets of Badgers of BC and synthesize information to direct management recommendations to enhance prey habitat for badgers - \$15,000.
- **8-265: Boundary Mule Deer Habitat and Population Project** - Funding to monitor radio collars on Mule Deer to document differences in herd structure between 2 Management Units and record responses to winter habitat manipulations - \$17,000.
- **8-125: Operation and Maintenance** - Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, restoration and fencing - \$35,530.

Stewardship

- **8-90: South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Habitat Stewardship** - Continued support to encourage habitat conservation, restoration,

enhancement and securement on private land in the South Okanagan - lower Similkameen area through landowner contact - \$55,000.

Special Permits Fund Projects for 2004-05

The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and the Province of British Columbia have signed agreements regarding special permits for Wild Sheep and Roosevelt Elk. From that agreement, a British Columbia Special Permits Fund has been established within the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. This account is to be used primarily for enhancement and conservation projects involving wild sheep, Roosevelt elk, and their habitats in British Columbia. Surcharges from sales to residents of Special Limited Entry Authorizations for wild sheep and for Roosevelt elk also contribute revenue to these special accounts.

Wild Sheep Projects

Provincial-scope

- **1-354: Bighorn Sheep Trace Mineral Data Completion** - Assemble all existing trace mineral level data for British Columbia bighorns; interpret findings as they relate to bighorn health and population dynamics - \$4,250.

Thompson-Nicola / Cariboo

- **0-289: Recovery of Fraser River California Bighorn Sheep** - Initiate key recovery actions identified in the Fraser River California Bighorn Sheep Recovery Strategy - \$20,000.

Kootenay

- **4-327: Elk Valley Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Inventory** - Funding to conduct aerial inventory of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep on winter ranges in the Elk Valley - \$7,700.
- **4-337: Rocky Ridge Stand Management Prescription** - Funding to develop a stand management prescription on this Crown range to restore Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Elk and deer winter range on Rocky Ridge - \$7,000.
- **4-347: Separation of Wild and Domestic Sheep in the East Kootenay** - Proactive steps to reduce the risk of disease transmission between domestic and wild sheep in the East Kootenay - \$15,000.
- **4-349: Wigwam Flats and Columbia Lake East - Bighorn Sheep ER** - Funding to complete slashing and prescribed priority Ecosystem Restoration treatments on

these two areas of extremely important Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep winter range to restore degraded habitat values - \$35,000.

- **4-303: Noxious Weed Control on Bighorn Sheep Winter Ranges** - Post-herbicide treatment monitoring of transects established at Wigwam Flats; noxious weed control on ungulate winter ranges within the East Kootenay Trench - \$12,000.

Okanagan

- **8-207: Restoration of Bighorn Sheep Metapopulation - South Okanagan** - In 1999/2000, a die-off of California Bighorn Sheep in the South Okanagan eliminated 70% of the population. This project will restore the population and safeguard it from future epizootics - \$40,150.

Roosevelt Elk Projects

Vancouver Island

- **1-374: Roosevelt Elk Portable Trap Acquisition** - The project will design and acquire a portable elk trap which can be easily transported, erected, and dismantled that will not deteriorate with age or use - \$12,500.
- **1-379: Roosevelt Elk Winter Range Enhancement Demonstration Site** - Seed funding to develop a demonstration site for investigation and promoting Roosevelt Elk winter range enhancement techniques. Field trials would focus on techniques to improve elk winter forage production and diversity - \$5,000.
- **1-380: Vancouver Island Roosevelt Elk Relocation Project** - The project will provide funds for the capture, relocation and monitoring of transplanted Roosevelt Elk on Vancouver Island to enhance elk distribution and abundance, and address agricultural conflicts and human safety issues - \$12,500.