

Conservation Projects to Receive \$5.4 Million

*Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks 330-30:ELP2001-148
April 11, 2001*

VICTORIA – Funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund totaling \$5.4 million will be given to 137 fish and wildlife conservation projects around the province, Environment, Lands and Parks Minister Ian Waddell announced today. "Annual funding provided by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund helps maintain British Columbia's abundance of unique fish and wildlife species," said Waddell. "Many of the projects approved for funding will support the theme of this year's national Wildlife Week: Our community includes wildlife, does yours?" Recipients of this year's funding include:

- Marble Range sheep migration study – \$16,000 to identify and assess the migration corridors of the Marble Range California bighorn sheep.
- Riparian restoration of Middle Vernon Creek – \$25,792 for restoring a section of Middle Vernon Creek by stabilizing stream banks, planting vegetation and building fencing.
- Vancouver Island steelhead recovery plan – \$100,000 for steelhead stock monitoring and habitat assessment in watersheds on Vancouver Island.
- Vancouver environmental education program – \$10,000 to develop coastal ecology programs for elementary students.
- Telkwa Caribou project – \$50,000 to monitor radio-collared caribou to determine annual movements, distribution, habitat use and causes of mortality.
- Okanagan Lake foreshore habitat protection project – \$25,000 to promote lake-sensitive living amongst Okanagan lakeshore residents.

Also included in this year's funding is a budget for \$30,000 to complete partnership projects with the new Agriculture Environment Green Fund. This federal-provincial program encourages the agriculture sector to design, fund and complete projects that benefit the environment.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is supported primarily by surcharges on angling, hunting, trapping and guide-outfitting licence fees. Since 1981, more than \$60 million has been provided to more than 1,800 projects through the trust fund and its predecessor, the Habitat Conservation Fund.

BACKGROUNDER

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Projects For 2001-2002

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 Projects

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Support for Wild BC, which provides educational materials on fish, wildlife and their habitats to teachers, scout/guide leaders, park interpreters and youth - \$25,000.
- Production of management guidelines for furbearers in British Columbia - \$15,000.
- Support for Naturescape British Columbia, which supports voluntary stewardship for the creation and maintenance of wildlife habitat on private lands, through production of high quality, scientifically accurate and regionally specific resource materials - \$50,000.
- Continued establishment of a province-wide network of volunteers to collect distribution and population information on amphibian species - \$29,000.
- Production of public information materials on selected wildlife species at risk - \$15,000.
- Continued support for development of partnerships to establish conservation covenants in four priority conservation areas (Georgia Basin Ecoregion, Okanagan and Similkameen, Kootenays and Chilcotin Ranges) - \$30,000.
- Continued compilation of existing grassland information to establish a provincial grassland Geographic Information System and maps- \$24,750
- Some support for development of a Kokanee Resource Guide to provide educators with information and educational activities on kokanee ecology and the complex relationship between kokanee, humans and their mutual habitats - \$8,000.
- Partnership funding for production of a carnivore handbook produced by the Royal BC Museum - \$15,000.
- Support for development of information on the occurrence, status, habitat requirements, conservation and management for over 80 of BC's wildlife tree – dependent species - \$22,000.

- Support for development of a guide for lawyers, financial planners in BC on planned giving for nature - \$5,000.
- Seed funding towards development of a grassland communications plan and extension program - \$5,000.
- Support for increasing public awareness of fish species and habitat and other educational opportunities during BC's Family Fishing Weekend - \$15,000.

Projects involving both Fisheries and Wildlife

- Continued support for the partnership between the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and the Public Conservation Assistance Fund to fund more volunteer conservation projects - \$100,000.
- Support for the partnership between government and non-government organizations to conserve important coastal wetlands - \$25,000.

Fisheries

- Continued support for fish conservation efforts through coordinated data collection, educational programs and monitoring angler use on quality rivers mainly in the Cariboo and Skeena - \$292,828.
- Continued support for development of a coordinated plan for native Cutthroat Trout conservation - \$80,000.

Wildlife

- Support for the investigation of the impacts of snowmobile activity on Mountain Caribou - \$17,500.
- Development of a status report for northern Woodland Caribou - \$20,000.
- Quantification of the risks to wildlife from llamas and alpacas used for backcountry recreation and development of management guidelines - \$25,070.
- Problem analysis on Band-tailed Pigeon including current knowledge and research and management needs for management of populations - \$4,000.
- Continued support for a volunteer-based, province-wide survey of nocturnal owls to monitor population distribution trends and provide data for habitat preference analyses - \$9,900.
- Continued support for the development of an inventory of arthropods in hot and warm springs of British Columbia - \$10,000.
- Support for a study on dragonflies of conservation concern in northern British Columbia - \$30,000.

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Continued support for implementing the protection action plan and landowner contact program in the Millard-Piercy Watershed near Courtenay - \$44,895.

Projects involving both Fisheries and Wildlife

- Continued support for the development and implementation of management, protection and enhancement plans for more than 25 critical wetlands along coastal Vancouver Island - \$25,000.
- Continued support for the development and implementation of an action plan to restore Woodhus Slough northwest of Courtenay - \$61,400.
- Support for developing a landscape management plan to restore fish and wildlife habitat on the Kennedy Flats - \$25,000.

Fisheries

- Operation of the Keogh River fish fence that collects critical Steelhead information on population dynamics - \$72,000.
- Continuation of Steelhead stock monitoring on 31 watersheds on the east coast of Vancouver Island to determine conservation requirements, sport fishing catch limits, habitat restoration priorities, and hatchery program response - \$100,000.
- Support for rehabilitation of an estuarine rearing area of the Campbell River - \$30,000.
- Seed funding towards developing a proposal for the investigation of anadromous Dolly Varden and coastal Cutthroat Trout life histories and habitat use in the Keogh River - \$5,000.
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$20,500.

Wildlife

- Monitoring of the impacts of Bullfrogs on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands and expansion of the education program to curtail further colonization of this introduced species - \$26,290.
- Continued support for the assessment and control of introduced Virginia opossums on Hornby Island and continued public education - \$16,000.
- Workshop to develop a management strategy for lessening the declines of Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant breeding populations in the Strait of Georgia - \$3,000.
- Support for Purple Martin recovery by replacing and supplementing boxes in existing colonies, establishing new nestbox colonies and developing stewardship agreements for each colony - \$10,000.../4

- Support for 3 to 5 operational broadcast burns in coastal forests of Vancouver Island to enhance the abundance of deer, elk, grouse, black bear and others - \$7,200.
- Determination of distribution and habitat use of Townsend's Big-eared Bat on islands off Vancouver Island.
- Support for a partnership to identify, catalogue and implement protective strategies for critical Great Blue Heron habitats in the Georgia Basin - \$30,000.
- Study to determine the distribution and abundance of Townsend's Big-eared Bat in the north Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island - \$15,600.
- Seed funding towards developing a project to determine the relative abundance of Northern Goshawk winter prey species on Vancouver Island in relation to forest age class and stand size - \$5,000.
- Support for DNA sampling of two supposedly different populations of Peregrine Falcon on Vancouver Island to increase knowledge of the subspecific relationships and supply data currently lacking for the process of red and blue listings - \$10,000.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$34,500.

LOWER MAINLAND

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Support for the Green Links project that, through community involvement, hopes to reestablish connectivity in watersheds and reduce fragmentation - \$20,000.
- In partnership with others such as Ducks Unlimited Canada and the BC Waterfowl Society, support for development of coastal ecology programs for elementary students in the Vancouver area - \$10,000.

Fisheries

- Continued support for a restoration and management plan for red-listed Salish Sucker and Nooksack Dace - \$31,340.
- Continued Wild Steelhead conservation activities: habitat capacity estimates for six key streams in the Lower Mainland and index techniques for annual monitoring programs - \$123,816.
- Continued support for a study of White Sturgeon in the lower Fraser River to determine distribution and abundance and habitat utilization - \$50,000.
- Continued support for an inventory, assessment, mapping and development of management priorities and operational guidelines for pumpstations and floodboxes that are restricting anadromous salmon and trout migration throughout the lower Fraser Valley - \$20,250.
- Support for developing a stock assessment / recovery plan for Steelhead in the Lower Mainland - \$15,000.

- Support for monitoring resident fish of the lower Fraser River for long-term changes vs short-term variation in community structure - \$15,000.
- Support for a study to characterize the hydraulic geometry, sedimentology and fish ecology of 4 side channels of the Fraser River - \$38,025
- Support for a fisheries reconnaissance survey of the upper Pitt River - \$5,000.

Wildlife

- Support for stakeholder consultations on, and assessments of, the reintroduction of Roosevelt Elk into historic ranges of the Lower Mainland – \$20,000.
- Support for the habitat enhancement, stewardship and applied research for the critically endangered Oregon Spotted Frog - \$10,000.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$68,898.

THOMPSON-NICOLA

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Seed funding towards development of a holistic management model integrating traditional ecological knowledge of the Little Shuswap Indian Band and scientific data - \$5,000.
- Seed funding towards development of a Sharp-tailed Grouse Stewardship Program in the Kamloops area - \$5,000.
- Seed funding towards development of an informational booklet for stewardship of wetlands and waterways on small farms and acreages - \$5,000.

Fisheries

- Continued monitoring and enumeration of Steelhead escapement through the Bonaparte fishway - \$22,939.
- Continued support for a spawning population assessment for Nicola and Deadman stocks involving estimation of abundance and age structure - \$53,000.
- Juvenile steelhead stock assessment to provide estimate of steelhead carrying capacity in the Thompson River watershed - \$43,647.
- Support for water conservation and small lakes enhancement through installing and rebuilding dams, diversions and water delivery systems, and developing alternative water use strategies on 7 key lakes in the Tunkwa area - \$234,665.
- Support for the identification of wild stocks of rainbow trout in the southern interior plateau that are vulnerable to overharvest, and development of protection strategies for them - \$45,000.
- 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 - \$21,600.

- Gathering of baseline information for population and habitat restoration of wild Bull Trout in Adams Lake - \$23,269.
- Kokanee spawning and habitat assessments leading to conservation of wild Kokanee stocks in the Thompson-Okanagan region - \$75,000.
- Construction of an additional cell to the existing fishway structure on the Bonaparte River for an electronic counter that will allow fish to pass with minimal delay and handling - \$36,500.
- Seed funding for developing a project to conserve and restore critical spawning habitat for Kokanee in Douglas Lake - \$5,000.
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$54,150.

Wildlife

- Development of conservation strategies for the Thompson-Okanagan Badger - \$50,000.
- Continued support for identifying migration corridors of the Marble Range California Bighorn Sheep herd and assessing types of habitat used by the sheep as they migrate - \$16,000.
- Follow-up study to sample treated riparian areas and document grazing effects by comparing grazed areas to ungrazed exclosures near Quilchena - \$25,000.
- Support for transplant of 50 Rocky Mountain Elk from Fort St. John to the Princeton area - \$10,500.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$6,700.

KOOTENAY

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Continued support for a program to encourage voluntary stewardship on grasslands under private ownership in the East Kootenay - \$15,204.

Fisheries

- Building on a previous project and working with First Nations and US agencies to develop and implement plans and assessment studies to restore red-listed Burbot in Kootenay Lake - \$51,450.
- Conducting work with Canadian and US partners to develop and implement a recovery plan to restore White Sturgeon in the upper Columbia River - \$143,430.
- Determination of the current use of Joseph Creek near Cranbrook as a spawning stream for Cutthroat Trout from the St. Mary River - \$20,000.

- Continued support for the determination of critical summer, overwintering and spawning habitats for protection and possible enhancement of Kootenay River Bull Trout - \$15,000.
- Assessment of the status of westslope Cutthroat Trout in the Wigwam River - \$46,000.
- Operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Gerrard Rainbow Trout spawning run and monitoring of the Gerrard fishery - \$54,300.
- Assessment of Kokanee food habits and their reliance on mysid shrimp - \$11,250.
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$62,475.

Wildlife

- Use of prescribed burning to enhance critical winter habitats of ungulates in the West Kootenay - \$34,200.
- Support for a study to determine Coeur d'Alene Salamander range, distribution, and status and recommend habitat protection and enhancement measures - \$15,000.
- Determination of the distribution and nesting habitat of Flammulated Owl in the Rocky Mountain Trench, the eastern extent of its range in BC- \$20,000.
- Monitoring restoration of fire-maintained ecosystems in the East Kootenay and the impacts of restoration activities on wildlife habitat - \$8,034.
- Seed funding for a survey of suspected Harlequin Duck natal streams in the Rocky Mountain Trench - \$5,000.
- Seed funding towards developing a project to enhance wildlife winter range in Kikomun Creek Provincial Park - \$5,000.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$10,000.../9

CARIBOO

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Support for evaluation of habitat quality and avifauna of 52 wetlands in the Central Interior and comparison to previous work done in 1938 and 1958 - \$15,100.

Fisheries

- Continued support for the determination of the current status of Kokanee and Rainbow Trout in Quesnel Lake and development of a plan for Kokanee stabilization and recovery to ensure Rainbow Trout conservation – \$104,000.

- Support for developing a restoration plan for the Horsefly River Watershed - \$5,000.
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$53,050.

Wildlife

- Continued support for a study of the foraging habits of American White Pelican on 20 lakes near Stum Lake - \$63,600.
- Support for a study on seasonal use and habitat selection of moose in wetland habitats - \$25,000.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$5,985.

SKEENA

Fisheries

- Operation of weirs at two sites on the Skeena River watershed to enumerate summer run Steelhead - \$59,500.
- Assessment of fish passage problems associated with highway culverts on tributaries of the Bulkley River to prescribe and implement fish passage provisions - \$15,000.

Wildlife

- Monitoring and control of raccoons to ensure they are not accessing breeding colonies of seabirds on the Queen Charlotte Islands - \$5,950.
- Recovery of the Telkwa caribou herd through transplants, and monitoring of radio-collared caribou to determine movement, distribution, habitat use, and mortality factors - \$50,000.
- Support for a study on the calving and post-calving habitat use by the Tweedsmuir – Entiako Caribou herd - \$25,000.
- Seed funding towards a problem analysis on the Canyon Mountain Goat habitat and population estimate - \$5,000.

OMINECA-PEACE

Fisheries

- Monitoring of Arctic Grayling population abundance and structure in the Burnt and Sukunka rivers - \$10,500.
- Observation of Inconnu seasonal movement patterns to establish spawning, staging and overwintering areas in northeastern BC - \$48,500.
- Assessment of the response of White Sturgeon in the Nechako River to adaptive flow manipulations and the success of spawning events - \$101,154
- Assessment of the distribution of limited spawning and rearing habitat for a unique monoculture population of Rainbow Trout in Tatlatui Park - \$39,375.
- Examination of Bull Trout life history strategies in the Morice River watershed - \$19,973
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$20,300.

Wildlife

- Use of prescribed burning to enhance key wintering habitats for ungulates - \$50,000.
- Evaluation of Upper Fraser wetland riparian habitat - \$5,000.
- Habitat restoration of Worth Marsh, a natural wetland northeast of Chetwynd - \$40,000.
- Management of Wood Bison in the Liard Corridor Park to provide grassland habitat and movement control of bison - \$30,000.
- Support for a project that would identify habitat connectivity and conservation in the Peace River Lowlands - \$41,600.
- Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$12,000.

OKANAGAN

Information, Education and Stewardship

- Continued support for the conservation and enhancement of threatened plant communities and wildlife species on private land in the South Okanagan-Similkameen - \$40,000.
- Seed funding towards development of a program to enhance awareness and encourage stewardship of nature in the north Okanagan - \$5,000.
- Support for a stewardship program on the Okanagan Lake foreshore - \$25,000.

Projects involving both Fisheries and Wildlife

- Continued support for a demonstration project to show the effects of improved livestock control on riparian areas south of Penticton - \$8,000.

Fisheries

- Continued studies and activities to rebuild and maintain Kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake - \$200,000.
- Support for restoration and enhancement of the urban instream portion of Mill Creek in Kelowna - \$18,000.
- Support for restoration of riparian function to a section of Middle Vernon Creek by stabilizing stream banks, planting riparian vegetation and fencing - \$25,792.
- Seed funding towards developing a proposal to restore, protect and enhance a riparian portion of the Kettle River - \$5,000.
- Operation and maintenance funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the Trust Fund, such as lake aerators and spawning channels - \$73,400.

Wildlife

- Use of prescribed burning to enhance the winter habitats of ungulates - \$100,000.
- Continued support for the restoration and habitat renewal of shrub-steppe habitat near Osoyoos - \$25,540.
- Support for implementing the management plans on two biodiversity ranches in the South Okanagan near Okanagan Falls - \$20,000.
- Seed funding towards developing a 5-year plan for Mule Deer conservation in the Southern Interior Region - \$5,000.
- Support for documentation of wildlife values on 16 parcels of Crown land in the south Okanagan - \$5,830.

Operation and maintenance activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fencing - \$42,460.