

PROVINCE APPROVES 116 HABITAT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

*Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection 2005WLAP0030-000443
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VICTORIA – Funding of \$5.7 million is being provided through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) for 116 fish and wildlife conservation projects across British Columbia, including \$500,000 for steelhead recovery on Vancouver Island and the Georgia Basin, Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Bill Barisoff announced today.

"Our government is committed to protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat across British Columbia," said Barisoff. "This funding supports a wide variety of projects from restoring rivers and streams in every region of the province to studying wildlife populations to ensure that we have the best science available to make informed management decisions."

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is providing an additional \$171,350 through its Special Permits Fund for 10 projects that provide for conservation and enhancement of wild sheep and Roosevelt elk.

Major commitments by the HCTF this year are:

- \$250,000 to support the ongoing Vancouver Island steelhead recovery plan.
- \$250,000 to continue funding the Georgia Basin steelhead recovery plan.
- \$69,000 to Aspen Wildlife Research Inc. to study grizzly bear populations in the South Coast ranges.
- \$86,000 to study Shuswap Lake rainbow and lake trout stock status and their recreational fishing potential.
- \$140,000 to support East Kootenay grassland ecosystem restoration.
- \$94,750 to study the Swan Lake caribou herd in conjunction with the Teslin Tlingit First Nation and Yukon government.
- \$139,150 to support habitat restoration for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain goat in the Southern Interior.

The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is supported primarily by surcharges on angling, hunting, trapping and guide-outfitting licences. Voluntary contributions, court awards and sale of educational materials provide additional revenue.

"The BC Wildlife Federation and our thousands of members around the province are thrilled to see this investment being made in fish and wildlife habitat protection," said Tony Toth, executive director of the BC Wildlife Federation. "Each year, through the surcharges we pay on hunting and angling licences,

we're helping to conserve critical habitat across B.C. It's gratifying to see our payments go to such worthy projects."

In February, Premier Gordon Campbell announced that the Province was providing the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund with an additional \$6.5 million to support its ongoing conservation efforts and boost the fund community groups rely upon for local conservation projects.

Since 2002, the trust fund has provided over \$22 million to support conservation, enhancement and stewardship projects throughout British Columbia, and since 1981, the trust fund and its predecessor, the Habitat Conservation Fund, have provided almost \$81 million.

Full details of the HCTF 2005-06 projects can be found at <http://www.hctf.ca>.

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BACKGROUND

2005-06 HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FUND PROJECTS

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/MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS

Fisheries

- **Quality Waters Strategy (River Guardian Program)** – \$133,931 through the Quality Waters Strategy 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **2005 Provincial Peregrine Falcon Survey** – \$32,000 to conduct and assess results from peregrine falcon occupancy surveys around the Queen Charlotte Islands, Vancouver/Gulf Islands, Lower Mainland and

some interior B.C. sites. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Implementing the Grizzly Bear Scientific Panel's Recommendations** – \$75,000 from the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge to address the outstanding recommendations from the independent Grizzly Bear Scientific Panel that reviewed grizzly bear harvest management and conservation in British Columbia. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Development of a Health Management and Assessment Resource for Species-at-Risk** – \$5,000 to provide species-at-risk biologists, managers and recovery planners with the tools to effectively integrate health management and risk-assessment components into their recovery strategies. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **Wild BC** – \$130,000 for continued support for Wild BC, which, on a cost-recovery basis, provides educational materials on fish, wildlife and their habitats to teachers, scout and guide leaders, and youth. In partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Provincial Amphibian Monitoring Program** – \$25,500 in continued support to establish a provincewide network of volunteers to collect and submit information on amphibian species and populations. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Family Fishing Weekend** – \$40,000 in continued support to encourage participation in recreational fishing and foster an appreciation for the aquatic ecosystems of the province. In partnership with the Family Fishing Society of BC.
- **Public Conservation Assistance Fund Stewardship Case Studies** – \$10,000 for the production of eight case studies of volunteer fish and wildlife stewardship projects for posting on the BC Stewardship Centre website. In partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Economic Values of Wildlife in British Columbia** – \$60,000 for surveys to determine the socio-economic characteristics, values and expenditures associated with recreational uses of fish and wildlife resources in B.C. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **History of Stewardship in B.C.** – \$10,000 for the production of a short history of the fish and wildlife stewardship movement in B.C. to record conservation achievements and encourage improved policy and financial support. In partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) Enhancement Project** – \$5,000 in seed funding to develop a plan to provide better access to the CORE program information. In partnership with the B.C. Wildlife Federation.

- **Fishes of British Columbia - A Comprehensive and Up-To-Date Book for Anglers, Scientists, Managers and Conservationists** – \$30,000 for a comprehensive updating of the Fishes of British Columbia, a reference book authored by one of Canada's premier fish experts, Dr. J.D. McPhail, and written for use by scientists, fisheries managers, anglers, conservationists and naturalists. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Bear Aware Program** – \$50,000 for the Bear Aware project comes from both the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge and from the general Habitat Conservation Trust Fund surcharge. Bear Aware will reduce the number of bear-human conflicts through education, innovation and co-operation by managing food attractants to discourage bears. In partnership with the BC Conservation Foundation.
- **Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Partnership Program** – \$225,000 for continued support to work in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada towards wetland conservation in B.C. and implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, through acquisition, enhancement and management projects. In partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- **Public Conservation Assistance Fund** – \$100,000 in 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 throughout British Columbia. In partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Fisheries

- **Keogh River Steelhead Population Dynamics** – \$100,000 in continued support for the steelhead index system on the Keogh River during a critical period of conservation concern and rehabilitation evaluation. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Vancouver Island Steelhead Recovery Plan** – \$250,000 in continued support for wild steelhead stock assessment, habitat restoration and evaluation, and sport fishery development projects on the east coast of Vancouver Island. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Tsolum River Rain Harvesting Project** – \$5,000 in seed funding to develop a plan to reduce rapid drainage, store rainwater in the landscape and provide alternative water resources through rainwater storage technologies. In partnership with the Tsolum River Restoration Society.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Vancouver Island – Fish)** – \$17,425 for 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Viewing Guidelines for Seabird Nest-Sites on Vancouver Island** – \$10,000 in funding. Through co-operation with BC Parks, Parks Canada, private tour operators and naturalists, this project will research disturbance distance and timing thresholds at seabird nest sites on Vancouver Island. The data will be used to develop scientifically-based viewing guidelines for seabird nest-sites to provide protection of seabirds during critical nesting periods and improved boater behaviour. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Vancouver Island – Wildlife)** – \$35,275 in continued funding towards operations and maintenance activities on more than 30 conservation areas on Vancouver Island that are well used by the public for recreational purposes. Provisions must be taken to ensure that public safety (signage, fencing, danger tree removal), existing ecosystem diversity and integrity (access restrictions, signage) and habitat maintenance structures (water control weirs, dykes) are maintained. In partnership with The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **Wetland Management Program** – \$25,000 in 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Habitat for Wildlife in the Millard/Piercy Watershed** – \$25,000 in funding. The objective of "Habitat for Wildlife" is to protect threatened species by protecting the integrity of wildlife corridors and habitat in the Millard/Piercy Watershed. In partnership with the Millard/Piercy Watershed Stewards.
- **Vancouver Island Wildlife Viewing Network** – \$12,000 in funding. 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Wildlife Tree Stewardship Initiative (WiTS)** – \$40,000 for continued funding to create, co-ordinate, 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. In partnership with the Federation of BC Naturalists.
- **Wetlands Institute: Project Development and Implementation** – \$10,000 in funding. The Wetlands Institute builds wetland conservation projects around B.C. and trains individuals to develop and implement

projects in their home communities. The 2005-06 Institute will be held in Victoria July 3-9. In partnership with the B.C. Wildlife Federation.

- **MacKenzie Creek Stewardship Project** – \$5,000 for seed funding to develop a comprehensive plan for the MacKenzie Creek watershed near Tofino emphasizing stewardship activities, linkages to existing partnerships and incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and scientific data. In partnership with the Tofino Streamkeepers Society.
- **Cowichan Estuary - Eelgrass Restoration Project** – \$10,000 in funding. This project, with a high level of community involvement, will identify potential eelgrass restoration sites, assess these sites, identify donor beds, transplant eelgrass in those sites deemed suitable, and develop a long-term monitoring program supported and carried out by community stewards. In partnership with the Cowichan Community Land Trust.

LOWER MAINLAND Fisheries

- **Explaining the Nature and Operation of Independent Power Projects (IPPs)** – \$5,000 in seed funding to explain the potential benefits and impacts of IPPs as related to the activities and animals important to outdoor enthusiasts. In partnership with the Watershed Watch Salmon Society.
- **Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery – Steelhead Stock Monitoring/Conservation Status** – \$250,000 in continued funding for stock assessment, population recovery, restoration opportunities, and new steelhead fishery development activities on high priority streams in the Lower Mainland. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Stabilizing the Tolmie Clay Slide** – \$10,000 for continued funding to complete the stabilization of the slide area with four more groynes, slope trimming and bioengineering. In partnership with the Chilliwack River Action Committee.
- **Restoration of Steelhead Upstream of Alouette River Dam** – \$5,000 in seed funding to assess the opportunity and determine the feasibility of restoring steelhead populations upstream of the Alouette Dam. In partnership with the Alouette River Management Society.

Wildlife

- **Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery** – \$60,270 in continued support for previous work funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund and additional assistance from local sportsman's clubs, the guide outfitters and numerous others to establish viable elk populations in priority areas of the Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland region by trapping and moving elk from urban areas to remote wilderness areas. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Grizzly Bear Population Density and Distribution in the Southern Coast Ranges** – \$69,000 in funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge to survey grizzly bear occurrence using DNA hair-snag methods, and subsequent analyses to predict grizzly bear population density and distribution relative to habitat and human activity. To be carried out by Aspen Wildlife Research Inc.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Lower Mainland – Wildlife)** – \$59,442 in funding. This project will assist with funding the operations and maintenance of the globally significant 28,402 ha of prime avian habitat located within 10 wildlife management areas in the Lower Mainland. The project also includes opportunities for public use and education within natural areas located within close proximity to B.C.'s largest population base. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **Green Links** – \$20,000 in continued support for a project that, through community involvement, hopes to re-establish connectivity in watersheds and reduce impacts of habitat fragmentation. In partnership with the Douglas College Centre for Environmental Studies and Urban Ecology.
- **Planning and Assessment of Restoration and Rehabilitation Objectives for the Como Watershed Lowlands** – \$25,000 in funding will be used to assess the watershed's upland area values and subsequently develop a comprehensive planning strategy for restoration and rehabilitation of the whole watershed. In partnership with the Como Watershed Group.

THOMPSON-NICOLA Fisheries

- **Thompson River Juvenile Steelhead Stock Assessment** – \$59,392 in 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation** – \$65,000 in funding provided for escapement monitoring programs for Thompson (Deadman, Nicola, Bonaparte rivers) and Chilcotin steelhead. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Shuswap Lake Rainbow and Lake Trout Stock Status and Their Recreational Fishing Potential** – \$86,000 in funds will be used to conduct the Shuswap Lake Rainbow Trout angler questionnaire (that will also provide tag-return data from trout and char tagging initiatives in 2004) and to tag fully recruited rainbow trout and char. Tag data will provide estimates of number of spawners while survey tag-return data obtained can be used to estimate current exploitation rates and efficiency quotients

required to determine sustainable fishing levels. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Marine Survival Assessment of Juvenile Thompson Steelhead** – \$49,500 in funding. Steelhead smolts will be captured and tagged to monitor marine survival rate and migration pathways. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Operations and Maintenance (Thompson-Nicola – Fish)** – \$77,340 in funds to be used for the operation and maintenance of the Bonaparte Fishway and the Bonaparte Lake Dam to ensure optimum Bonaparte River flows via dam operation and unimpeded fishway water flows; maintenance of fences, gates, cattle guards, dam and buildings on the Menzies Lake property and costs to run the lake aeration system; and 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 region. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Ecological Relationships Between Grizzly Bears and Forest Management in the Coast-Interior Transition of Southern British Columbia** – \$10,000 in funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy to evaluate existing grizzly bear/forestry best management practices in the coast-interior transition of southern B.C. (Lillooet Forest District) by conducting a scientific investigation of the ecology of grizzly bears. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Stewardship and Restoration of “Columbian” Sharp-tailed Grouse Populations and Habitat** – \$37,281 in continued funding towards research, local stewardship, monitoring and habitat enhancement/restoration activities to increase “Columbian” sharp-tailed grouse populations to viable levels. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Testing the Accuracy of the Stratified Random Block Method Using Thermal Infrared Scanning** – \$10,000 in funding. The Stratified Random Block Method used for conventional moose surveys will be tested for accuracy and cost-effectiveness using a thermal infrared scanning camera. To be carried out by Cascadia Natural Resource Consultants Inc.
- **Operations and Maintenance (Thompson-Nicola – Wildlife)** – \$8,900 in continued support for maintenance and management of conservation lands to ensure compliance with regulations, protect resources and enhance public enjoyment. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

KOOTENAY Fisheries

- **Kootenay Lake Gerrard Rainbow Trout Conservation** – \$32,000 in funding. This project monitors the conservation status of Gerrard rainbow trout by enumerating spawner numbers, estimating harvest, and monitoring critical spawning habitat parameters. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **West Arm Kootenay Lake Rainbow Trout Stock Status and Their Recreational Potential** – \$10,000 in funding. Prior to any restoration or enhancement efforts on this former provincially significant rainbow trout population, basic data on all life stages will be collected. To be carried out by Redfish Consulting Ltd.
- **Culvert Replacement and Habitat Restoration on Small Feeder Streams to the Lardeau River** – \$21,835 in continued funding to increase juvenile Gerrard rainbow trout rearing habitat by systematically replacing some culverts on Highway 31 and modifying critical habitat. To be carried out by Redfish Consulting Ltd.
- **Lower Mark Creek Habitat Restoration Project** – \$6,720 in continued funding to improve habitat for Westslope cutthroat trout in a heavily impacted urban stream in Kimberley. In partnership with the East Kootenay Environmental Society.
- **Implementation of a Conservation Plan for Gerrard Rainbow Trout** – \$50,000 in funding. This project involves data collection for restoration of juvenile Gerrard rainbow trout habitat, more accurate measurement of Lardeau River fry and parr densities, and determination of level of harvest of mature fish. These tasks are required to ensure conservation of this provincially significant trout population. To be carried out by Redfish Consulting Ltd.
- **Kootenay Region Electronic Fish Counter Development** – \$41,000 in funding for the development of a station for the counting of Gerrard rainbow trout in the Lardeau River, West Kootenay. To be carried out by Instream Fisheries Research Inc.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Kootenay – Fish)** – \$48,600 in 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Recovery of the Kettle-Granby Grizzly Bear Population** – \$25,000 in funding through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge for this project to develop and implement a recovery plan by preparing background information, establishing the recovery team and liaison committee, preparing a draft plan and undertaking consultation. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **West Kootenay Ungulates** – \$34,560 in continued support for this prescribed burning program to improve forage quality for deer, elk, moose

and mountain sheep as well as reducing forest encroachment in the West Kootenay. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **East Kootenay Grassland Ecosystem Restoration** – \$140,000 in 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **East Kootenay Mountain Goat Habitat Project** – \$20,000 in funding to monitor the status of GPS-radio-collared goats and conduct summer goat inventories and sightability trials in the East Kootenay. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Pend d'Oreille Valley (POV) Wildlife Management Plan** – With \$10,000 in funding from the Arrow Timber Trust Account, this project will revise the wildlife management plan directing habitat enhancement and conservation activities on the 1,474 ha Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection property in the Pend d'Oreille Valley. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Coleman Ranch Wildlife Management Plan** – With \$10,000 in funding from the Arrow Timber Trust Account, this project will develop a wildlife management plan to direct the habitat enhancement and conservation activities on the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection property known as the Coleman Ranch. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Ecosystem Changes in the North Columbia Mountains: Moose Population Monitoring** – \$34,200 in funding to monitor moose populations in the Lake Revelstoke Valley, in the context of mountain caribou recovery, habitat conservation, and hunting opportunities. In partnership with the Revelstoke Mountain Caribou Project.
- **South Selkirk Grizzly Bear Recovery Project** – With \$35,700 in funding through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge, this project will determine the current status of the south Selkirk grizzly bear and initiate recovery through habitat, connectivity, and mortality management. In partnership with the University of Alberta.
- **Moose Calving Area Habitat Selection in the East Kootenay** – \$18,000 in funding. This project will quantify moose habitat selection for calving areas in three areas of the East Kootenay, using calving areas delineated by GPS collar data from 32 female moose. To be carried out by Aurora Wildlife Research.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Kootenay-Wildlife)** – \$35,530 for continued support to conduct maintenance, planning, monitoring, habitat protection, enhancement and restoration activities on conservation properties in the East Kootenay. In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Nature Trust.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP)** – \$20,000 in funding to provide co-ordination and facilitation for partners to find approaches to ecosystem conservation and stewardship on private land in the East Kootenay. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Improving West Kootenay Public Awareness of Fish and Wildlife Values and The Role of HCTF** – \$7,000 in funding. This project proposes to undertake additional information and education stewardship on kokanee spawning at the Kokanee Creek Visitor Centre and to increase public awareness of the important role that HCTF plays in the conservation of fish and wildlife. To be carried out by Ecosense Interpretive Services Ltd.
- **Abel Creek Protection Plan** – \$5,000 of seed funding to help develop a comprehensive plan emphasizing stewardship as well as restoration to ensure fish stock stabilization /recovery and to promote stewardship of watercourses generally and Abel Creek specifically. In partnership with the District of Invermere.

CARIBOO Fisheries

- **Quesnel Lake Fish Restoration** – \$200,000 in funding. The primary goal of this project is to obtain sufficient biological data to implement tasks/actions that will restore Quesnel Lake kokanee and rainbow trout populations. Basic liminological data and improved estimates of the trout and kokanee populations are required to support possible experimental lake fertilization. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Cariboo-Fish)** – \$41,850 in funding for lake aeration of four lakes, fish passage restoration at four base streams and other high priority streams as needed, operation and maintenance of the Tete Angela diversion works and maintain Cariboo/Chilcotin dams and weirs. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Interior Blue Grouse Project** – \$5,000 in seed funding to evaluate interior blue grouse populations to identify suitable site for long-term studies including development of conservation and management regimes. In partnership with the Upland Birds Society.
- **Knife Creek Fence** – \$27,000 in funding provided to replace 2.5 km of old fencing with wildlife-safe fencing on the surveyed property boundary to eliminate unauthorized grazing on the 200 Habitat Conservation Trust Fund purchased property. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Knife Creek Land Reserve Habitat Restoration** – \$4,000 in funding. The habitat restoration program will inhibit the encroachment of invasive, non-

- native plant species within the grassland community, thus increasing the forage available to wildlife. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Cariboo Grassland Species Inventory** – \$5,000 in funding provided to conduct multi-species grassland surveys in the big sagebrush ecosystem and adjacent grasslands in the Cariboo region. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
 - **Operations and Maintenance (Cariboo-Wildlife)** – \$5,985 in continued funding for activities, such as weed control, sign maintenance and fencing, on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife in the Cariboo. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **The Cariboo Cattlemen's "Cows and Fish" Riparian Program** – \$5,000 in funding will be applied towards initiating voluntary sustainable and economical agricultural land management practices that result in healthy water, riparian areas, fisheries values and wildlife. In partnership with the Cariboo Cattlemen's Water Stewardship Council.
- **Baker Creek Enhancement Society-Nature Education** – \$5,000 in seed funding to be used towards development of a prescription for the Dragon Creek and wetland corridor near Quesnel. In partnership with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society.

SKEENA Fisheries

- **Skeena Weirs and Steelhead Stock Assessment** – \$68,000 in continued support to operate a weir on the upper Sustut River to enumerate and assess the escapement of wild summer steelhead to this system. These data will be used to estimate the total summer steelhead escapement to the Skeena River. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Kitimat River Steelhead Genetics** – \$38,750 in funding to evaluate the potential effects of hatchery steelhead production on wild Kitimat River steelhead by using DNA analysis of historical and present day wild-spawning steelhead populations plus hatchery samples to assess whether or not there has been any detectable genetic influence on wild fish from the hatchery plantings. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Burbot Abundance Assessment in Small Lakes** – \$26,875 in funding. Redden black cod traps and traditional hoop traps will be used to conduct a mark-recapture population estimate of burbot in Maxan Lake near Burns Lake. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Telkwa Caribou Recovery Project** – \$48,750 in funding to monitor radio-collared caribou in the Telkwa herd to determine recovery status and manage recreational access opportunities. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Ecological Reserve Raccoon Monitoring and Raccoon Control** – \$4,000 in 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **North Coast Ungulate Winter Habitat Verification and Modeling** – \$19,000 in funding to test and revise the existing GIS-based model for identification of critical Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) by field verifying stratified polygons. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **BC/Yukon Gyrfalcon Productivity Monitoring for Falconry Harvest** – \$5,000 in funding is provided to conduct helicopter productivity surveys for gyrfalcons at aeries in the North Coast Mountain population of southwest Yukon and northwest B.C. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Kalum Grizzly Bear Habitat Identification and Field Assessments** – \$55,000 in funding 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Effects of a Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic on Tweedsmuir-Entiako Caribou Habitat Use** – \$5,000 in seed funding to develop a proposal that will assess the response of caribou to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. To be carried out by Caribou Ecological Consulting.
- **Nass TSA Mountain Goat Winter Range Habitat Identification and Assessment** – \$40,000 in funding for algorithm refinement, stratified aerial surveys and field verification of mountain goat winter habitat in the Nass Timber Supply Area, including partnership development with First Nations, and the forestry and tourism industries. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **2005 Peale's Peregrine Falcon Inventory of the North Coast** – \$25,000 in funding. The coastline of the North Coast will be surveyed by boat to count the number of active falcon aeries for the 2005 nesting season. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Population Ecology of the Swan Lake Caribou Herd** – \$94,750 in funding to work with the Teslin Tlingit First Nation and Yukon government to determine the seasonal movements, distribution, habitat use and population ecology of the Swan Lake Caribou Herd. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

OMINECA Fisheries

- **Analysis of Lake Char Stock Status, Fort St. James Forest District** – \$30,000 in funding for the analysis of char stock status to formulate "sustainable" angling opportunities in the Omineca, and to develop local biological reference points for landscape management of char. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Adaptive Management of Forestry Practices in Pine-Lichen Woodlands in North Central British Columbia** – \$50,850 in funding for evaluating the response of terrestrial lichen communities to the application of nine different harvesting and silviculture treatment combinations. To be carried out by Resource Interface Ltd.
- **Ecosystem Management Recommendations to Maintain Grizzly Bear Habitat in Managed Forests in Central B.C.** – \$12,000 in funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge to translate research information on grizzly bear habitat selection into forest management recommendations consistent with ecosystem management principles. In partnership with the Ministry of Forests.
- **Compilation of Existing Grizzly Bear Field Data** – \$5,000 in seed funding provided through the Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy dedicated surcharge to compile existing but unavailable field data on grizzly bears behaviour and ecology. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

PEACE Fisheries

- **Walleye Migrations in the Petitot River** – \$30,900 in funding provided for telemetry observations of the seasonal movement patterns of walleye to establish the spawning locations and migrations to over-wintering areas. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Chowade River Bull Trout Population Status** – \$12,200 of funding provided to determine current status of bull-trout spawning activity in the Chowade River in northeastern B.C. by means of snorkel surveys, aerial and ground counts of bull trout spawners and redds. To be carried out by Diversified Environmental Services.
- **Rehabilitation Strategy for Lake Trout in Moberly Lake** – \$18,200 in funding provided to develop a rehabilitation strategy and monitoring plan for the recovery of lake trout in Moberly Lake. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Operations and Maintenance (Peace-Fish)** – \$28,050 in funding for operation and maintenance of Habitat Conservation Trust Fund funded projects and assets: Inga Lake spawning channel, educational programs for schools, aeration in winter; Sundance Lake winter aeration, Stewart Lake weir maintenance, and Swan Lake fishway maintenance. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Fire Mop-up** – \$50,000 in funding. In partnership with the Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia, funding goes towards pre-burn site preparation and post-burn mop-up operations for approved Habitat Conservation Trust Fund prescribed burns in northern B.C. In partnership with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund.
- **Peace River Prescribed Burns** – \$65,000 in continued funding for the use of prescribed burning to slow the loss of early seral plant communities in the northeast part of the province. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Status of Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Peace Region** – \$28,000 in funding provided to determine the reproductive success of female sharp-tailed grouse by quantifying their survival, nest success and brood survival during the breeding season. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Ecological Relationships between Threatened Caribou and Their Habitat in the Central Rocky Mountains Ecoregion** – \$24,000 in funding to monitor radio-collared caribou within four threatened populations in the mountains between Tumbler Ridge and Mackenzie to determine seasonal movements, habitat use and survival rates. In partnership with the Ministry of Forests.
- **Ecological Relationships between Threatened Caribou and Their Habitat in the Central Rocky Mountains Ecoregion** – \$24,000 in funding to monitor radio-collared caribou within four threatened populations in the mountains between Tumbler Ridge and Mackenzie to determine seasonal movements, habitat use and survival rates. In partnership with the Ministry of Forests.
- **Extending Trail and Mineral Lick Modeling to Operational Use in North-Central BC** – \$30,000 in funding. Habitat supply modeling will be used to identify mineral licks and trails to manage as wildlife habitat features for regionally important wildlife and for species-at-risk. To be carried out by Wildlife Infometrics Inc.
- **Identification and Protection of Critical Habitats Used By Northern Caribou in the Besa-Prophet Area** – \$15,000 in funding. Radio-telemetry and habitat analyses will be used to identify and protect critical habitats used by the Pink Mountain caribou herd in the Besa-Prophet River drainage. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Operations and Maintenance (Peace-Wildlife)** – \$20,000 in continued support for site habitat protection (fence repairs and signage) and implementation of management plans on six Nature Trust properties leased to the Province and two Crown Fish and Wildlife properties. In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Nature Trust of British Columbia.

OKANAGAN Fisheries

- **Middle Vernon Creek Stream Restoration Project** – \$15,000 in continued support to develop long-term strategies (based on sound scientific data) to mitigate severe low-flow conditions that have occurred on Middle Vernon Creek. In partnership with the Oceola Fish and Game Club.
- **Kettle River Rainbow Trout Stock Assessment and Recovery Planning** – \$27,400 to determine the stock status of Kettle River rainbow trout via snorkel surveys, and to identify if low flows and high water temperature are responsible for an apparent decline in numbers. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Okanagan – Fish)** – \$59,330 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Okanagan Lake Action Plan Phase 2** - \$322,000 to continue studies and activities to rebuild and maintain kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Wildlife

- **Okanagan Bullfrog Eradication Project** – \$10,000 in funding to investigate the feasibility and to attempt eradication of bullfrogs in wetlands of the South Okanagan. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **South Okanagan Ranch Land Conservation Project** – \$12,000 in funding support for implementing management plans on two biodiversity ranches in the South Okanagan near Okanagan Falls. In partnership with the Nature Trust of British Columbia.
- **Habitat Needs of Breeding Listed Okanagan Birds** – \$20,000 in funding to assess the habitat requirements of listed birds breeding in the South Okanagan through point-count surveys and measures of reproductive success. In partnership with Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service.
- **Development of an Elk Management Plan in the Traditional Territory of the Spltasin Peoples** – \$3,600 in seed funding to maintain and

enhance elk herds to provide hunting opportunities for members of the Secwepemc Nation and the wildlife-user community. In partnership with the Spallumcheen Indian Band.

- **Habitat Restoration for Bighorn Sheep, Elk, Mule Deer and Mountain Goat in Southern Interior** – \$139,150 in funding provided to restore and/or enhance important bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk and mountain goat winter, spring and fall ranges. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Operation and Maintenance (Okanagan-Wildlife)** – \$35,530 in funding. This project provides funding for critical land management activities on conservation holdings in the South Okanagan. Activities include restoration of disturbed sites, noxious weed management and control, fence maintenance, signage, safety, security, maintenance and operations. In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the Nature Trust of British Columbia.

Information, Education, Stewardship

- **South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Habitat Stewardship** – \$40,000 in continued support to encourage habitat conservation, restoration, enhancement and securement on private land in the South Okanagan-lower Similkameen area through landowner contact. In partnership with the Land Conservancy of British Columbia.

Special Permits Fund Projects for 2005-06

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 ACCOUNT

Kootenay

- **Noxious Weed Control on Bighorn Sheep Winter Ranges** – \$15,000 in funding to improve the quality of bighorn sheep winter ranges by conducting an intensive and consistent noxious weed control program on documented sites within the East Kootenay Trench. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Transplant: Monitoring** – \$5,000 in funding to aurally monitor 10-15 radio-collared bighorn sheep, which were transplanted from Radium/Stoddart to Premier Ridge in late winter 2005. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Cariboo

- **West Fraser Road California Bighorn Sheep Signage** – \$5,000 in funding to provide road signage on West Fraser Road to reduce wildlife-related accidents and mortality to the northernmost herd of California bighorn sheep to help increase herd size. In partnership with the Quesnel Rod and Gun Club.
- **Churn Creek California Bighorn Sheep Habitat Restoration** – \$22,500 in funding provided to help restore California bighorn sheep habitat and enhance the grassland ecosystem by removing conifer encroachment through mechanical means and prescribed fire. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Churn Creek Sheep Migration Corridor Ecosystem Restoration Plan** – \$17,900 in funding. The project will develop an ecosystem restoration plan for the Churn Creek California Bighorn Sheep Migration Corridor, which provides critical habitat for sheep migrating between winter and summer habitat. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Omineca/Peace

- **Skeena-Omineca-Peace Thinhorn Sheep Range Mapping and Herd Registry** – \$20,000 in funding will be used for the application of meta-data of current use by thinhorn sheep on 1:250,000 range maps and completion of herd registries for the northern portion of the province. To be carried out by Ecodomain Consulting.

Okanagan

- **Restoration of Bighorn Sheep Metapopulation-South Okanagan** – \$55,000 in funding. In 1999/2000, a die-off of California bighorn sheep in the South Okanagan eliminated 70 per cent of the population. This project will attempt to restore the population and safeguard it from future epizootics. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
- **Okanagan Mountain Park Bighorn Transplant** – \$5,000 in seed funding to develop a problem analysis and more comprehensive plan for the proposed transplant of California bighorn sheep into Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

- **South Slope Bighorn Lamb Recruitment** – \$5,000 in seed funding to undertake the background work to determine the full scope of this project to monitor California bighorn sheep lamb production and survival to update work done 20 years ago. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

ROOSEVELT ELK ACCOUNT

Vancouver Island

- **Vancouver Island Roosevelt Elk Relocation Project** – \$10,950 in continued funding 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. To be carried out by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

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BACKGROUNDER

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Projects for 2004-2005

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- Ungulate Distribution and Relative Abundance Map Series – A new project to digitize current abundance/distribution maps of ungulates in B.C. - \$10,000.
- Ungulate Population Assessment – Funding provided to undertake a quantitative assessment of ungulate population status and harvest management of ungulates in B.C. - \$15,000.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- Family Fishing Weekend – Continued support to encourage participation in recreational fishing and foster an appreciation for the aquatic ecosystems of the province - \$20,000.
- 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.
- 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

- Cowichan River Conservation Area Additions – Funding towards an ongoing land acquisition strategy to consolidate properties along the Cowichan River - \$100,000

Fisheries

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Vancouver Island Dolly Varden Recovery Plan – A new project to develop a recovery plan for Dolly Varden stocks on Vancouver Island - \$37,674.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- Comox Valley Stewardship Project – Continued funding for activities that increase landowner awareness about sensitive habitats in the Comox Valley - \$40,000.
- Salt Spring Stewardship Project 2004 - This project will assist landholders in identifying, sustaining, and enhancing natural habitats on their land - \$10,000.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation – Funding provided for escapement monitoring programs for Thompson (Deadman, Nicola, Bonaparte rivers) and Chilcotin Steelhead - \$72,500.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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

- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- West Kootenay Ungulates – Continued support for the use of prescribed burning to enhance critical winter habitats of ungulates in the West Kootenay - \$33,000.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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

- 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

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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

- 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.
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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

Details of HCTF projects in the Okanagan will be released shortly.