

## **\$6.4 Million to Improve Stewardship**

*Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection 2003WLAP0025-000356  
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CHILLIWACK – Funding of \$5.5 million is being provided through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund for 115 fish and wildlife conservation projects across British Columbia, Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Joyce Murray announced today.

The province is providing an additional \$943,000 to the B.C. Conservation Foundation for another seven priority conservation projects, including steelhead recovery and wildlife inventories and assessments.

“Conservation is my number one priority when it comes to managing fish and wildlife populations,” said Murray, who made the announcement at the B.C. Wildlife Federation’s annual general meeting. “Our government is committed to protecting British Columbia’s spectacular natural diversity, and supporting partnerships with non-governmental agencies is an effective way for us to accomplish this goal.”

Major commitments by the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund this year are:

- \$100,000 to partner with the Public Conservation Assistance Fund to enhance opportunities for local conservation groups to contribute to fish and wildlife conservation projects in their communities.
- \$213,000 to support the Vancouver Island steelhead recovery plan.
- \$180,000 to support the province’s grizzly bear conservation strategy.
- \$150,000 to support the Ducks Unlimited Canada wetlands partnership program.
- \$150,150 to support Upper Columbia River white sturgeon restoration.
- \$45,000 to support the ongoing educational activities of WILD BC.
- \$326,500 for phase two of the Okanagan Lake action plan.

“These projects will help protect and maintain critical fish and wildlife habitat, as well as improve our knowledge and scientific understanding,” said Murray.

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. Since 1981, the trust fund and its predecessor, the Habitat Conservation Fund, have provided more than \$70 million to support conservation, enhancement and stewardship projects throughout British Columbia.

The B.C. Conservation Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of B.C.’s species and ecosystems.

# BACKGROUND

## Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Projects For 2003-2004

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One of the principles of the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is to encourage partnerships on all conservation and enhancement projects, either through financial support or in-kind contributions. Most of the projects approved for funding have other partners. The descriptions below note only Habitat Conservation Trust Fund contributions to projects.

### **Projects Provincial in Scope**

#### ***Fisheries***

- Lake Trout Conservation Plan – Seed funding to prepare the background material necessary to develop a provincial lake trout conservation plan: \$5,000.

#### ***Wildlife***

- Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy – 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 projects involving grizzly bears, the Provincial Bear Awareness Program, Babine Area Grizzly Bear Monitoring Project and Grizzly Bear Population Density and Distribution in the Southern Coast Ranges: \$180,000.
- Status of Dragonflies of Conservation Concern – Continued support to study key wetland sites in northern B.C. to provide a better understanding of the status, distribution and habitat needs of dragonflies: \$37,345.
- Badger Recovery Science: Prey Ecology – Support to prepare a comprehensive literature review of badger-prey ecology and to identify its influence on badger distribution and survival, knowledge gaps and future research: \$7,500.
- Support to Provincial Caribou Recovery Teams – In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, funds to provide logistical support to the Mountain and Northern Caribou recovery teams: \$20,000.
- Development of a Spatially Explicit Metapopulation Model for Mountain Caribou – Funds to evaluate the viability of mountain caribou in a metapopulation context and quantitatively identify adequate linkage corridors to facilitate population connectivity in fragmented landscapes: \$30,000.

#### ***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: \$45,000.

- Provincial Amphibian Monitoring Program – Continued support to establish a province-wide network of volunteers to collect and submit information on amphibian species and populations: \$29,000.
- Reptile Conservation Web site – Funds to develop a Web site to provide information on conservation issues and stewardship opportunities concerning reptiles in B.C., including aids to identification: \$11,000.
- 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 conservation projects: \$100,000.
- Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Partnership Program – 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: \$150,000.

### **Vancouver Island Projects**

#### ***Fisheries***

- Keogh River Steelhead Population Dynamics – Support for the steelhead index system facilitating operation 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: \$213,000.
- Spawning Gravel Placements in Vancouver Island Lake Outlets – Support to place washed, screened spawning gravel in the outlets of three Vancouver Island lakes, including Dickson and Great Central in Stamp/Somass watershed, and between First and Second lakes in the Nanaimo River watershed: \$48,523.
- East Coast Vancouver Island Salmon Carcass Program Implementation – Funds to implement long-range plans and recommendations for salmon carcass retention and redistribution in central east coast Vancouver Island watersheds: \$13,905.
- Little Qualicum Storage Weir Upgrade Feasibility – Support to determine the feasibility of upgrading the water-storage weir at the outlet of Cameron Lake, which is at the Little Qualicum River headwaters, and developing an integrated flow-management plan to better support downstream fish-habitat values: \$12,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the trust fund on Vancouver Island, such as lake aerators and spawning channels: \$17,425.

#### ***Wildlife***

- Coastal Great Blue Heron Monitoring and Management Program – Continued support for a partnership to identify, catalogue and implement protective strategies for critical great blue heron habitats in the Georgia Basin: \$30,000.
- Haslam Elk Winter Range Enhancement– Seed funding to investigate the potential to use the Haslam unit near Ladysmith as a winter range enhancement demonstration site. This project will look into the feasibility of implementing winter forage enhancement techniques like scarification, native grass seeding, shrub planting and browse rejuvenation: \$5,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Continued funding toward activities for special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, dangerous tree removal and fencing: \$35,275.

### ***Stewardship***

- Bullfrog Invasion Impacts on Aquatic Communities – Continued support to encourage stewardship and conservation groups to take charge of the education and bullfrog management programs to curtail further colonization of this introduced species: \$25,000.
- Comox Valley Stewardship Project – Continued funding for activities that increase landowner awareness about sensitive habitats in the Comox Valley: \$66,775.
- Proposal Development for Nimpkish Estuary Productivity Study and Management Plan Recommendations – Funds to examine current utilization by fish and wildlife; foreshore and intertidal vegetation; productive capacity; impacts of past, present and proposed human uses; and development of management recommendations for the Nimpkish River Estuary. A model for use in other estuaries will be developed: \$30,769.
- 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.
- The Leading Edge: Conservation and Stewardship Conference - Funds to produce and distribute conference proceedings in printed and electronic formats, to ensure a permanent record of this landmark event, which will be held in Victoria in July 2003: \$15,000.
- Wildlife Tree Stewardship Initiative – Funds 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: \$34,012.
- South Cowichan Stewardship Project – Funds to conserve and protect ecologically sensitive areas along critical streams and rivers in the south Cowichan Valley. Privately owned lands bordering these streams will be the primary focus of the project: \$31,050.

### **Lower Mainland Projects**

#### ***Fisheries***

- Salish Sucker-Nooksack Dace Recovery Action Group – In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, start-up funding to facilitate development of a common understanding among participants and focus attention on high-priority activities that meet the objectives of the species-recovery strategies: \$10,000.
- Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery – Steelhead Stock Monitoring and 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: \$222,095.
- Fraser River Sturgeon Monitoring and Assessment Program – Continued support to build on the success of the previous three years of tagging and recapture activities of white sturgeon in the lower Fraser River, to determine distribution, abundance and movement and habitat preferences within the study area and raise public awareness of sturgeon conservation issues: \$49,933.
- South Coast Cutthroat Project – Continued support to develop a co-ordinated plan for work on coastal cutthroat trout in the Lower Mainland region: \$22,589.
- Sustainability of the Chilliwack Lake Char Fishery – Seed funding to identify and assess the suitability of existing computer-simulation models for estimating char species' levels in Chilliwack Lake: \$5,000.
- Lower Mainland Bull Trout Genetic Analysis – Seed funding to study genetic differentiation among populations of bull trout in the lower Fraser River area and adjacent coastal streams: \$5,000.

### ***Wildlife***

- Lower Mainland Roosevelt Elk Recovery – Continued support for work initiated in 2000-01 and 2001-02 with funding from the trust fund, plus additional assistance from local sportsmen's clubs, guide outfitters and others to establish viable elk populations in priority areas of the Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland by trapping and relocating elk from urban areas to remote wilderness areas: \$35,280.
- Managing Recreation to Protect Mountain Goats – Seed funding to develop a proposal to evaluate the effectiveness and extent of implementation of the Interim Wildlife Guidelines for Commercial Backcountry Recreation: \$5,000.
- Recovery Potential of Amphibian Communities – Funds to estimate densities of native amphibians at six sites near Maple Ridge five years after forest harvesting: \$22,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – 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.

- Municipal Wildlife Habitat Conservation Strategy – Continued support for a community project to develop and implement a practical and comprehensive long-term wildlife conservation strategy for the Town of Langley: \$14,740.
- Lower Mainland Steelhead Recovery Plan Public Education and Stewardship – Seed funding to develop a communications plan for implementation of the Lower Mainland Steelhead Recovery Plan: \$5,000.
- Oregon Spotted Frog at Mountain Slough, Agassiz – Funds to monitor egg-laying success at Mountain Slough in Agassiz and conduct public education and educational workshops: \$2,000.

## **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: \$55,203.
- Thompson River Juvenile Steelhead Stock Assessment – Continued funding for a multi-year, diver-counted assessment of steelhead parr standing stock to provide an estimate of steelhead carrying capacity for the Thompson River watershed - \$51,011.
- Bonaparte Fishway Operation – Continued support to monitor and enumerate steelhead escapement through the Bonaparte fishway: \$23,529.
- Thompson River Wild Steelhead Conservation – Continued funding for abundance monitoring and assessment of population status for Thompson and Chilcotin steelhead stocks: \$49,213.
- Wild Kokanee Spawning and Habitat Assessment – Continued support for kokanee spawning habitat assessments and spawner enumeration in streams off 13 lakes in the North and South Thompson watershed: \$75,000.
- Shuswap Lake Ecosystem Monitoring – Funds to plan and develop a monitoring system to measure the aquatic ecosystem health of Shuswap Lake by using two top predators, rainbow and char, as indicators: \$39,937.
- Biodiversity Inventory of Fishless Lakes – Seed funding to initiate biodiversity strategies for stocking small lakes: \$5,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Funding for the Bonaparte fishway, Bonaparte Lake Dam, Menzies Lake fisheries facilities and other fishery enhancements like lake aerators, stream diversions and riparian fencing previously funded by the trust fund: \$53,390.

### ***Wildlife***

- Badger Recovery: Highway Mortality Mitigation Trial – Funds to mitigate badger highway mortality in the Thompson Valley by replacing selected concrete road barriers with permeable ones that allow badgers safer passage on high-traffic sections of major highways: \$10,000.

- Stewardship and Restoration of Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Populations and Habitat – In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, continued funding toward research, local stewardship, monitoring and habitat enhancement and restoration activities to increase Columbian sharp-tailed grouse populations to viable levels: \$58,969.
- B.C. Grasslands Conservation Risk Assessment – Funds to compile existing information from around the province to assess the status of B.C.'s grasslands and their resident wildlife: \$25,300.
- Badger Conservation Implementation – In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and the badger-recovery team, support to implement the conservation strategies developed during the Thompson-Okanagan badger project and in the Jefferson Badger Recovery Plan: \$28,797.

### ***Stewardship***

- B.C. Grasslands Communication and Extension Project – Funds to develop several key grassland conservation communication and extension initiatives, such as a Web site and newsletters: \$15,000.

### **Kootenay**

#### ***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: \$150,150.
- Kootenay Lake Gerrard Rainbow Trout Conservation – Operation, maintenance and monitoring of the Gerrard rainbow trout spawning run and monitoring of the Gerrard fishery: \$33,153.
- Feasibility of Utilizing a Resistivity Counter for Gerrard Rainbow Trout – Seed funding to determine feasibility of utilizing a resistivity counter on the Lardeau River to count migrant Gerrard Rainbow Trout: \$4,922.
- Lardeau River Culvert Assessment – Funding to identify the number, location and magnitude of problems associated with culverts on Highway 31 adjacent to the Lardeau River: \$6,790.
- Operation and Maintenance – Funding for fisheries facilities like 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: \$32,300.
- Slocan Valley Elk Study – Continued funding for a program to monitor elk population trends 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: \$10,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Continued funding for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife in the East Kootenay, such as weed control and fencing: \$35,530.
- Flathead River Tailed Frog Inventory – In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, funds to inventory endangered tailed frogs and their habitats to define range, distribution and status and recommend habitat protection, restoration and enhancement measures: \$47,250.
- Long-billed Curlew Habitat Requirements for Broods – Funding to determine total area of grassland required to successfully rear chicks, by observing broods from hatching to fledging north of Cranbrook: \$12,000.

### ***Stewardship***

- NCC Lands Habitat Stewardship Project – Seed funding to develop landowner contact plans for the Mount Broadwood area in the East Kootenay: \$5,000.

### **Cariboo Projects**

#### ***Fisheries***

- Operation and Maintenance – Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the trust fund, such as lake aerators, dams, weirs and diversions: \$41,850.

#### ***Wildlife***

- Quesnel Highland Mountain Caribou Project: Impact of Backcountry Recreation – Continued support to assess the impact of motorized recreation on mountain caribou movement patterns with respect to displacement from preferred winter range: \$44,900.
- Quesnel Elk Habitat Enhancement – Seed funding to identify opportunities to prevent or mitigate wildlife and agriculture conflicts on elk winter range near Quesnel: \$5,000.
- Itcha-Ilgachuz Caribou Population Monitoring – Funding to provide an estimate of total caribou numbers during the post-calving season and calculate expected calf recruitment into the population through a late-winter survey: \$15,900.
- Grizzly Bear Habitat Mapping and Assessment – Support to identify and map critical grizzly habitats within single landscape units and provide management recommendations and habitat prescriptions for critical habitats: \$18,000.
- Grizzly Bear Wildlife Habitat Area Delineation on the Mid-coast – Funds for field verification of the appropriateness of proposed Wildlife Habitat Areas and for silvicultural monitoring: \$15,000.

## **Skeena Projects**

### ***Fisheries***

- 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.
- Kitimat River Steelhead Genetics – Funding to evaluate the potential effects of hatchery steelhead production on wild Kitimat River steelhead: \$30,750.
- Lower Skeena River Coastal Cutthroat Trout – Funding to determine coastal cutthroat distribution, assess their basic life history in the lower Skeena River and apply the results to prioritize further stock-status studies: \$5,000.
- Highway 37 Design for Fish Passage Restoration – Funding to undertake fish and fish habitat assessments on 25 streams that have migration barriers caused by highway-related stream-crossing structures and develop designs for re-establishing access for candidate structures: \$25,050.

### ***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: \$15,000.
- Blue Grouse Habitat on the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands – Support to establish habitat and abundance ranking of blue grouse, which can be used for the conservation of preferred habitat types: \$33,250.
- Snowshoe Hares and Lynx in Sub-boreal Landscapes – Seed funding to further develop a proposal to test the hypothesis that, because forest management has changed the spatial extent and sizes of younger forest patches in boreal B.C., lynx conservation may be at risk because of resulting changes in snowshoe hare population dynamics: \$5,000.

## **Omineca Projects**

### ***Fisheries***

- Nechako River White Sturgeon Spawning Investigation – Funding to continue tracking fish to determine spawning location and movements out of system: \$23,000.

## **Peace Projects**

### ***Fisheries***

- Burnt and Sukunka Rivers Arctic Grayling Assessment – Continued support to monitor Arctic grayling population abundance and structure in the Burnt and Sukunka rivers: \$10,250.

- 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.: \$58,000.
- Dolly Varden Distribution Surveys : Upper Ingenika – Funding to determine Dolly Varden occurrence and distribution in the upper Ingenika watershed: \$25,000.
- Overwintering Fish Habitat - Feasibility Project – Seed funding to examine the feasibility of a number of fish-sampling methods in winter to aid in development of a standardized sampling methodology: \$4,975.
- Operations and Maintenance – 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 the Swan Lake fishway: \$28,050.

### ***Wildlife***

- Peace River Prescribed Burns – Continued funding for the use of prescribed burning to enhance key wintering habitats for ungulates in the Peace Region: \$50,000.
- 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: \$38,065.
- Status of Sharp-tailed Grouse in the Peace Region – Funding for a lek and population inventory, improved understanding of sharp-tailed grouse habitat use, regional land use impacts and productivity variables: \$30,000.
- Neotropical Migrants in the Peace Corridor – Seed funding to further develop a proposal for a baseline breeding bird survey of the Peace Heritage River Corridor to identify and document breeding habitat for passerines, especially neotropical migrants: \$5,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control and fence maintenance: \$20,000.

### **Okanagan Projects**

#### ***Fisheries***

- Phase Two of the Okanagan Lake Action Plan – Continued studies and activities to rebuild and maintain kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake: \$326,500.
- Middle Vernon Creek Stream Restoration Project – Continued support to restore riparian function to a section of Middle Vernon Creek by stabilizing stream bank, planting riparian vegetation and erecting fencing: \$40,000.
- Thomson Creek In-stream Restoration and Enhancement – Funding to create and enhance instream fish habitat and stream complexity for the first 100 metres of Thomson Creek: \$3,570.

- Assessment of Newbury Riffles Installed in the Okanagan River – Support to evaluate the Newbury Riffles that were installed in the Okanagan River as an alternative to vertical-drop structures: \$8,580.
- Operation and Maintenance – Funding for fisheries facilities previously developed or funded by the trust fund, such as lake aerators at Yellow, Gardom, Burnell and Kidd lakes, and dams and water diversions throughout the regions: \$59,330.

### **Wildlife**

- South Okanagan Ranch Land Conservation Project – Support for implementing management plans on two biodiversity ranches in the south Okanagan near Okanagan Falls: \$12,000.
- Habitat Needs of Breeding Listed Okanagan Birds – Funding to survey direct measures of reproductive successes, focus on previously identified key conservation areas and assess the value of different habitat conditions to listed bird species in the south Okanagan: \$20,000.
- Okanagan Mule Deer and Elk Habitat Restoration – Continued support for the use of prescribed burning to enhance the critical ungulate winter, fall and spring ranges in the south Okanagan: \$80,000.
- Habitat Use and Roost Selection by Pallid Bats in the Okanagan Valley – Continued funding to determine critical foraging and roosting habitats for the red-listed pallid bat: \$12,500.
- Southern Interior Turkeys, Range and Habitat – Seed funding to determine the habitat needs, current and potential range and consequences for native fauna of the rapid population growth of wild turkey, an introduced species to B.C.: \$5,000.
- Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory Management Plan – Support to prepare management guidelines pertaining to private land and urban infrastructure development within priority areas identified in the Central Okanagan Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory: \$20,000.
- Operation and Maintenance – Continued support for activities on special conservation areas set aside for wildlife, such as weed control, restoration and fencing: \$35,530.

### **Stewardship**

- South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program Habitat Stewardship – Continued support to encourage habitat conservation, restoration, enhancement and securement on private land in the south Okanagan and lower Similkameen area, through landowner contact: \$65,000.
- Mill Creek Watershed Stewardship Signage – Funds to develop and construct watershed stewardship interpretive signage for two well-used parks in Kelowna along Mill Creek, Millbridge Park and Pacific Court Playground: \$3,000.
- Sensitive Ecosystems and Growth Management – Funds to support a planning/demonstration project to assess habitat and ecosystem implications of

various scenarios for conservation area design near Vernon, as well as a public outreach program through the Allan Brooks Nature Centre: \$30,000.

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## BACKGROUND

### Habitat Conservation Trust Fund Projects

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The ministry has provided a total of \$1.4 million in one-time funding to the Habitat Conservation Trust fund for the following projects.

- **Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Program** (Vancouver Island) – Implementation of the action-plan recommendations on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland: \$505,000.
- **Angling Management Plan for East Kootenay** – To produce an angling management plan for the Elk, Bull and Wigwam Rivers: \$30,000.
- **Species-at-Risk Planning** (provincewide) – Funding to support the development and implementation of recovery plans for species or ecosystems considered to be at risk: \$800,000.
- **Hay River Wood Bison** (Peace Region) – To support the implementation of the national wood bison recovery plan in the Hay River area: \$50,000.

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## BACKGROUND

### BC Conservation Foundation Projects

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The ministry has provided a total of \$943,000 in one-time funding to the BC Conservation Foundation for the following projects.

- **Wildlife Inventory and Freshwater Fish Assessments** (provincewide) – Funding to collect and provide the province with up-to-date data on a range of fish and wildlife species. This provincial inventory funding program will support the collection of a range of key inventories for fish and wildlife management across the province, benefiting industry, First Nations and recreationalists: \$800,000.

- **Bull Trout Stock Assessment and Habitat Analysis** (Okanagan) – Provides for bull trout stock and habitat inventory and assessment of bull trout populations in the Okanagan, benefiting the forest industry, First Nations and anglers: \$20,000.
- **Western Screech Owl Inventory** (Okanagan) – Supports inventory of the red-listed Western Screech Owl and is part of the recovery planning effort for the species. Funding partners include local and national interests: \$10,000.
- **Black Tailed Deer Population Assessment** (Lower Mainland) – An ungulate – black-tail and mule deer – inventory program to establish baseline population inventories for these species, for use in establishing winter range requirements: \$28,000.
- **Steelhead Recovery Action Plan** (Lower Mainland) – Will help implement the Georgia Basin steelhead action plan; partner agencies and other information are at [steelheadrecoveryplan.ca](http://steelheadrecoveryplan.ca) online: \$23,000.
- **Trend-monitoring Projects** (Lower Mainland) – Will identify baseline indices for long-term environmental monitoring and begin to gather data that will establish a scientific data and information base to guide future environmental monitoring and management projects: \$25,000.
- **Terrestrial and Water-based Ecosystems Assessment** (Vancouver Island) – This project will map and characterize the dominant geomorphic processes on Vancouver Island, look at the relationships between them and associated, vulnerable aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and examine current and future land uses and the potential for them to exacerbate environmental impacts from the geomorphic process on the vulnerable ecosystems: \$37,000.