

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.