



# Enhancing Wildlife Habitat:

A Collaboration Strengthening  
our Collective Conservation Efforts

The Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Partnership — Fall 2022 Accomplishments Update



Removing Invasive Plants | Photo Credit: Neil Fletcher

## The Power of Partnerships

Improving Wildlife Habitat and Healthy Populations

British Columbia's unique environmental and biological diversity sets our province apart from any other place on earth. The wildlife and fish habitats of our province are cherished by British Columbians and for that reason, we feel **a deep responsibility to conserve and steward the province's natural resources**, ensuring that these wild places are **cared for, for generations to come**. The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) and the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) have common goals to **fund and promote conservation efforts that will restore and improve our province's natural resources into the future**. It is partnerships like these that not only strengthen the power of conservation funding but also bring diversified solutions to the table to generate greater conservation impacts.

By joining together with governments, Indigenous peoples, educational institutions, and anyone who has a passion for nature, we create a community of conservation which will **increase resources, share knowledge and expertise**, and **improve outcomes for wildlife, fish, and habitats** across the province. It is through a collaborative approach that we will succeed in the challenges facing us, by not only restoring B.C.'s wild places, but also by enabling the next generation to build upon our achievements.



"Our partnership with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC delivers projects which will have a real impact on conserving B.C.'s fish, wildlife, and their habitats."

**Dan Buffett**, MREM  
CEO, HCTF



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia

Learn more about wildlife habitat  
enhancement projects throughout B.C.



## INSIGHTS FROM

# The Minister of Forests

"British Columbia's ecosystems are home to the greatest variety of species in Canada. That's why it's a priority to ensure wildlife and their habitats remain healthy in the face of climate change. The Forest Enhancement Society of BC and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation's partnership delivers on-the-ground projects improving wildlife stewardship and habitat conservation throughout the province. Through increased collaboration, their work is aligned fully with our Together for Wildlife strategy turning data and knowledge into action and results. Partnerships like this are putting us on our path forward to achieve better outcomes for wildlife."

—Katrine Conroy



**Hon. Katrine Conroy**  
Minister of Forests

 @KatrineConroy



"Over the past few years, we've been helping residents in southeast B.C. make their properties safer for people and bears through cost-shared electric fencing and fruit tree replacements. Realizing coexistence in grizzly bear country is reliant on collaboration, evidence, and support from granting agencies such as HCTF and FESBC. Thanks!"

—Clayton Lamb, PhD., Wildlife Scientist with Biodiversity Pathways and the University of British Columbia

## By the Numbers

Conserving and stewarding wildlife habitat through collaboration and innovation.

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### \$5+ MILLION

in funding committed by FESBC to wildlife enhancement projects in 2017.

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### 105 PROJECTS

The FESBC and HCTF partnership has co-funded a total of 105 projects throughout B.C. to date.

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### \$8+ MILLION

As of March 2022, the FESBC and HCTF partnership has doubled the funding dedicated to the 105 projects.

## INSIGHTS FROM

# The Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

"Our forests are critically important, not just to the many diverse ecological systems that define our province in so many ways, but also by helping to regulate our climate. British Columbians are increasingly feeling the impacts of the climate crisis. It's why we're taking steps to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and restore sensitive wildlife habitat in forests across B.C. By working together with our Indigenous partners and organizations like the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, we're investing in solutions that will protect and enhance our forests for a more secure future."

—George Heyman



**Hon. George Heyman**  
Minister of Environment  
& Climate Change Strategy

 @GeorgeHeyman

Learn about...

# 9 WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

of the 105 projects funded by FESBC in collaboration with HCTF



Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia



HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

## Conserving and Protecting Wildlife



1

### **Increasing Fisher Habitat Stewardship in the Forest Sector:**

Through FESBC and HCTF funding, forest professionals had the opportunity to improve their knowledge, skill, and ability to better retain fisher habitat in forestry operations.



2

### **West Coast Roosevelt Elk Recovery and Release Project:**

First Nations governments, community organizations, stakeholders, and industry, partnered to start re-establishing blue-listed (species considered vulnerable) Roosevelt Elk populations on the west coast of B.C.



3

### **Re-Establishing Vancouver Island Marmots in Strathcona Provincial Park:**

The Marmot Recovery Foundation was able to work to reintroduce Vancouver Island Marmots to Strathcona Provincial Park to create a self-sustaining population of this Indigenous mammal.

## Conserving and Stewarding the Land



4

### **Invasive Plant Management on Bighorn Sheep Winter Ranges:**

Critical big horn sheep habitats were improved through a comprehensive and collaborative approach to manage invasive plants to increase the quality of grasslands.



5

### **Restoring Whitebark Pine Ecosystems to Enhance Sub-alpine Bear Habitat:**

Work was implemented to restore endangered Whitebark Pine ecosystems damaged by wildfire in the southern Skeena Region, which in turn improved high-value habitat for bears and other wildlife.



6

### **Kotcho Lake Caribou Habitat Restoration:**

Led by the Fort Nelson First Nation, the restoration work benefited the Snake-Sahtahneh caribou herd by revegetating seismic lines, which in turn limited predator access.

## Protecting and Enhancing the Water



7

### **Habitat Protection and Connections for Western Toads:**

Work was done to help sustain breeding populations of Western Toads and Northern Red-legged Frogs through connecting habitats, reducing mortality, and restoring riparian habitat.



8

### **Similkameen River Riparian Restoration:**

With funding, a 10-acre vineyard was removed to re-establish a waterside forest and seasonal wetland areas along the east bank of the Similkameen River.



9

### **Restoring and Reconnecting Floodplain Forests in the Heart of the Fraser:**

A hay field dominated by invasive grass was converted into a more ecologically natural floodplain forest in the Bert Brink Wildlife Management Area.

# Did you know?



HCTF is a non-profit charitable foundation investing in the future of British Columbia's fish, wildlife, and their habitats. HCTF came into existence because its major contributors—hunters, anglers, trappers, and guide-outfitters—were willing to pay a license surcharge for conservation work, going above and beyond what was expected by the government for basic management of wildlife and fish resources.

Since the inception of HCTF's work in 1981, the Foundation and its predecessors have invested over \$206 million in more than 3,550 projects across B.C. FESBC has been proud to have provided \$5.2 Million to HCTF to co-fund 105 projects throughout our province.

To learn more about HCTF projects, visit [www.hctf.ca](http://www.hctf.ca)

To learn more about FESBC projects enhancing wildlife habitat, visit [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca)

FESBC would like to gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests.



Surveying Peck Creek Restoration | Photo Credit: Nikanēse Wah tzee Stewardship Society

## Forest Management and Terrestrial Habitat Enhancement Go Hand-in-Hand

When FESBC was created in 2016, with one of its goals to improve **forest wildlife habitat** in B.C.'s forests, it became obvious that a partnership with HCTF was the way to go. HCTF had deep terrestrial ecosystem and biology expertise on staff, outstanding governance, excellent funding administration capability, and a track record spanning almost four decades. They had systems and processes already in place for project solicitation, evaluation, and adjudication.

FESBC is very proud of the partnership with HCTF.

One of the things FESBC learned is that good forest management and terrestrial habitat improvement go hand-in-hand. In fact, it would be hard to have one without the other. This is because almost everything in our natural world is interconnected. There have been so many FESBC projects where the primary objectives were to improve the forest, reduce wildfire risk, and protect communities, but because the trees were thinned out and forests opened up, conditions were also improved for wildlife. Bighorn sheep can see farther, mule deer have more food, songbirds and birds of prey have more room to fly, and so on. These projects often generate other benefits as well, including increased forest recreation for people and healthier trees that are more resilient to diseases, insects, and climate change. Together, we are learning that everything is interconnected, and we all can play a significant role.

—Steve Kozuki, RPF, Executive Director, FESBC



### Learn More

If you would like to learn more about the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and how people in British Columbia are helping to enhance wildlife habitat through our co-funded projects, connect with us!

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