

## [2018 John B. Holdstock Scholarship Successful Recipient \(2\) \[1\]](#)

### **Congratulations to Blaire Smith, one of two successful recipients of the 2018 John B. Holdstock Scholarship!**

“My passion for fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation is what drives my academic studies,” states Blaire. “This scholarship will help me pursue my academic goal of completing a Bachelor of Science.”

Highly driven in her studies, Blaire credits her academic achievements to being a diligent student. She graduated with honours with a Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife Diploma. “The achievement that I am most proud of is the applied research project I completed. I focused on detecting Canada lynx in the Rossland Range of BC, by snow tracking, hair snare, and trail camera. I was responsible for proposal, field work, final report, and successful grant writing. My hard work was recognized and I was awarded the Student Excellence in Technology Award from the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC.”

“My long-term career goal is to pursue work as a biologist in the Kootenay region of BC. I want to manage fish and wildlife resources and make science-based decisions to conserve habitat. It is very important to me that future generations have the opportunity to step into nature and connect with wildlife, just as I have. As a biologist, I want to protect and foster this relationship with nature for generations to come.”

“I am a traditional bow-hunter and an avid fly-fisher. Participating in these recreational activities gives me perspective and understanding of different view-points when it comes to management of fish and wildlife resources. I believe this background helps me interact with stakeholders and user-groups when completing conservation projects.”

“My employment history and volunteer work support my interest in fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation. In 2015 I was responsible for conducting terrestrial and aquatic invasive species work. From 2016-2017 I worked as a fisheries technician where I coordinated field activities for a Westslope Cutthroat Trout hybridization project and supported fisheries research and conservation. Currently, I assist in Northern Leopard Frog recovery work. I also participate in ongoing volunteer work for Bird Studies Canada and Wildsight, a local not-for-profit organization. These surveys include collecting data about nocturnal owls and waterbirds that will help shape future management decisions.”

**Great job, Blaire, and good luck in your future goals!**

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