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**FOR FORTY YEARS,** THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION HAS BROUGHT PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION SUCCESS. ✨ THE BCCF WORKS BOTH INDEPENDENTLY AND WITH PARTNERS TO UNDERTAKE PROJECTS IN FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT INVENTORIES, RESEARCH, ENHANCEMENT, RESTORATION, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP. ✨ WORKING WITH ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE GROUPS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FIRST NATIONS THE BCCF HAS IMPLEMENTED OVER 5000 CONSERVATION PROJECTS SINCE 1986.

COVER Purcell Mountains. Photo: Ben Waller

OPPOSITE PAGE Bighorn Sheep. Photo: Habitat Conservation Trust Fund

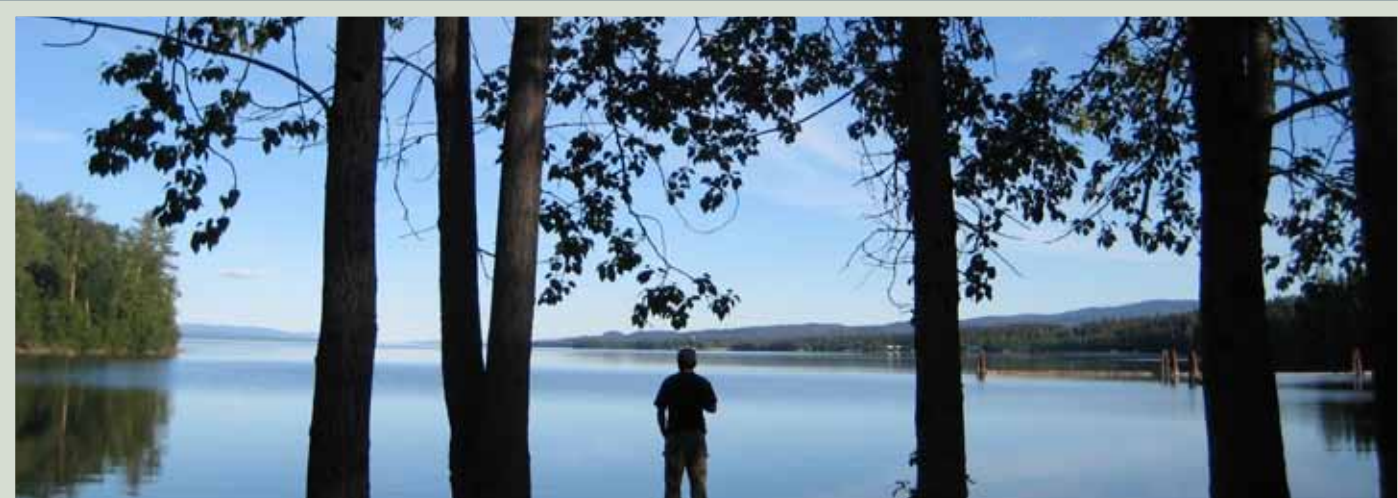


HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND  
PROJECTS ENDORSED & BE  
IMPLEMENTED UNDER CONTRACT WITH  
THE B.C. CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

APPENDIX A1  
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PROJECT	BUDGET
FISHERIES:	
VERNON CREEK KOKanee	5,900
MIANMO LAKE REHAB (1)	24,000
LOON CREEK RAINBOW	28,500
SALSBURY LAKE FERTILIZATION	15,000
ALCES LAKE DEEP OUTLET	40,000
CHINECA FEASIBILITY STUDY	46,000
HUCK LAKE BASS HABITAT	20,000
BLUE LEAD CREEK	10,500
HEAVER LAKE AERATION	30,000
VANCOUVER ISLAND SPAWNING	30,500
URBAN STREAM EDUCATION	18,300
BIG LAKE QUEL	5,250
WILDLIFE:	
TOFTON CREEK MOOSE	32,000
VANCOUVER LAKE UNCO	11,050
KOOTENAY LAKE	33,000
E.K. MOOSE BIGHORN	12,500
DAWSON CREEK	24,500
CARIBOO MOOSE	43,500
COWICHAN DEMONSTRATION	20,000
E.K. MOOSE MULE DEER	20,000
PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR UP	749,760
MULE DEER FORAGE	
ET. ST. JOHN FIRE	
E.KOOTENAY WHITETAIL	
WILLOW IDENTIFICATION GUIDE	
TOTAL	
FISHERIES ALTERNATES:	
HIT CREEK DIVERSION	3,000
KAMLOOPS NATURAL SPAWNING	27,300
CHINECA STREAM CLEARANCE	13,500
FRASER VALLEY FENCING	20,000
WILDLIFE ALTERNATES:	
OSOYOOS OXBOWS	25,000
VANCOUVER ISLAND HARTEN	15,000
STUART-NECHAKO	30,000
TOTAL	
133,000	

A 1986 CONTRACT FOR TWELVE FISHERIES PROJECTS AND THIRTEEN WILDLIFE PROJECTS GAVE THE BCCF ITS START. TODAY, THE CONSERVATION PROJECTS NUMBER MORE THAN 5,000 WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF OVER \$123 MILLION.



## FORTY YEARS AGO, AS THE LIBERAL, ‘DO-ANYTHING’, HIPPIY SIXTIES

SWUNG TO A CLOSE, A SEA CHANGE IN THINKING ABOUT OUR WORLD WAS SLOWLY FORMING. THE ‘ENVIRONMENT’ WAS SLOWLY BECOMING THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE UPPERMOST IN THE COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE. Across British Columbia groups rallied to the call. Hunters and sports fishermen, under the banner of the BC Wildlife Federation were no exception. They shared the dream... and in 1969 the BCWF set up the British Columbia Conservation Foundation whose objective was to acquire and conserve critical fish and wildlife habitats across the province. In time, the BCCF, a not-for-profit society developed an important niche, managing and administering conservation projects in partnership with government, industry, private groups as well as educational institutions. This is the story of the formation and the successful enterprise of the BCCF, an organization that over the last quarter of a century has been responsible for over five-thousand fish and wildlife conservation projects, and \$123 million invested in all corners of the province... a success story of which all British Columbians should be proud.

OPPOSITE PAGE **BCCF’s first contract with Habitat Conservation Fund, 1986**  
ABOVE **Babine Lake at Red Bluff Provincial Park. Photo: Rumi Kodama**



## IN THE MID 1960'S THE BRITISH COLUMBIA WILDLIFE FEDERATION,

A PROVINCE-WIDE ASSOCIATION OF HUNTERS AND SPORTS FISHERMEN WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BOOST REVENUE THAT COULD BE PUT ASIDE FOR LAND PURCHASES TO HELP BETTER CONSERVE BRITISH COLUMBIA'S RICH WILDLIFE. The Executive Director at the time – Howard Paish – came up with an idea to form a sister organization to the BCWF, a conservation foundation that might benefit from donations by corporations, donations from the public as well as bequests. “What we now propose...” began a plan outline that was presented at the 1968 annual convention in Kamloops “...is that the BC Wildlife Federation would establish a separate entity under the Societies Act similar to the National Wildlife Endowment, a parallel organization to the National Wildlife Foundation in the United States. The primary activity of the Foundation in the early stages would be to acquire wildlife habitat... Other activities would include range improvement projects, stream improvement projects, and the initiation of research and educational programs as they relate to habitat acquisition and improvement.” “Other wildlife advocacy groups had already gone down this path” explains Bill Otway who in time succeeded Paish as Executive Director with the BCWF. “The Canadian Wildlife Federation had already set up their own foundation with similar goals... and we reckoned if we could raise \$100,000, we could really start to do things for wildlife in BC.” Discussion of the idea continued through 1968 and early 1969 at BCWF meetings, and finally on May 6th 1969 the British Columbia Conservation Foundation was registered under the Societies Act as a non-profit, charitable foundation. The Constitution set out the purpose of the organization: “to promote and assist in the conservation of the fish and wildlife resources of the Province of British Columbia through the protection,





acquisition or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, and to provide for such other charitable purposes as may in the discretion of the directors appear to contribute to the betterment of the fish and wildlife resources of British Columbia.” The BCCF was off and running... albeit to a rather slow start. At the directors meeting in December 1970, the BCCF’s bank account balance was revealed as standing at an underwhelming \$85! ➦ Despite the high hopes, very little actually happened... the BCCF was left on the back burner of the Wildlife Federation’s plans. “So much so in fact,” explains Terry O’Brien who became the Foundation’s legal counsel, “...that the Foundation neglected to file its annual reports for the first five years of its existence and we were about to be struck off the register!” Of course the oversight was quickly rectified, although the BCCF remained little more than a shell until the mid 1980’s. Looking back, John Holdstock, present chair of the BCCF agrees that, as far as the Foundation was concerned, the Wildlife Federation had goals that were unrealizable. “People thought the idea of a Foundation was wonderful... Set it up and people will throw money at it. Of course that’s not the case. There’s more to it than that.” Terry O’Brien agrees. “Nobody did anything! It just sat there... for a long time.” In fact it would be the best part of fifteen years before the BCCF, which had been kept on little more than life support, was resurrected as a going concern. Ironically it was a recession that kick-started the organization into becoming a leader in habitat conservation.

## IRONICALLY IT WAS A RECESSION THAT KICK-STARTED THE ORGANIZATION INTO BECOMING A LEADER IN HABITAT CONSERVATION.

Bill Otway

BELOW Coquihalla River. Photo: Kerry Baird

OPPOSITE PAGE Vancouver Island Marmot. Photo: Oli Gardener







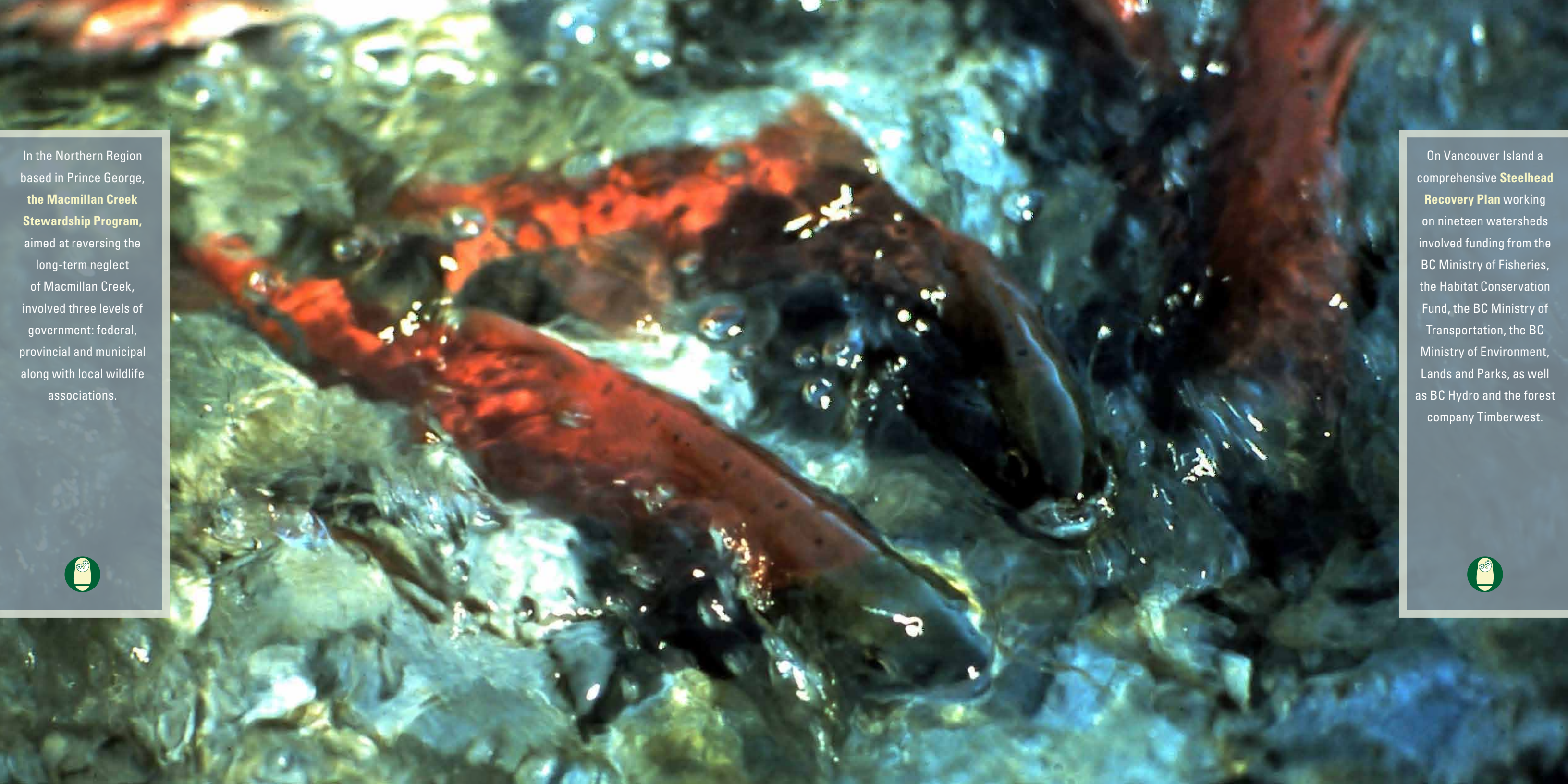
## AS THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN OF THE EARLY 1980'S BEGAN TO BITE,

THE SOCIAL CREDIT GOVERNMENT WAS FORCED INTO IMPOSING 'RESTRAINT' ON PROVINCIAL SPENDING. "BILL BENNETT, THE PREMIER, INSTIGATED A SEVERE CUTBACK.

Two million dollars earmarked for habitat enhancement projects which were to be funded from the Habitat Conservation Fund, were ordered frozen by the Ministry of Environment," explains Terry O'Brien. ♡ The Habitat Conservation Fund had been set up in 1981. The BCWF had lobbied for a \$3 surcharge on hunting and fishing license fees across the Province... money to be spent exclusively on enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. The membership was in favour of the move and the provincial government co-operated in setting up the HCF (later to change its name to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, and now the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation). The money raised was to augment government expenditures. Not only did it give the opportunity to do much-needed conservation work, but it also served as a 'feelgood' fund for the people who had contributed – in particular the membership of the BC Wildlife Federation who understandably felt let down by the 1983 cutbacks. "Well you can understand why..." says Carmen Purdy, an outspoken past-President of the BCWF and former Chair of the BCCF. "...I mean, we felt it was our money. We'd been the ones digging deep in our pockets to make the Habitat Fund happen... and

then we're told 'Sorry times are tough, everything's on hold for now'." Terry O'Brien, who was also on the Public Advisory Board of the Habitat Conservation Fund, instinctively recognized Carmen Purdy's concerns. "They thought the money was just going to disappear into the Government's pockets." No one could blame them for thinking that. In 1954, a similar conservation fund had been 'absorbed' by WAC Bennett's government into the general revenue. "It doesn't matter what colour the government is," Bill Otway remarks dryly, "...if there's money sitting around they'll make every effort to try to get their hands on it. But... What do they say? 'Let it happen once... Shame on them. Let it happen twice... Shame on you!' Well we were darned sure we weren't going to let it happen again." It was that frustration that became the catalyst to finally awaken the slumbering BC Conservation Foundation and force it into the limelight.





In the Northern Region based in Prince George, **the Macmillan Creek Stewardship Program**, aimed at reversing the long-term neglect of Macmillan Creek, involved three levels of government: federal, provincial and municipal along with local wildlife associations.



On Vancouver Island a comprehensive **Steelhead Recovery Plan** working on nineteen watersheds involved funding from the BC Ministry of Fisheries, the Habitat Conservation Fund, the BC Ministry of Transportation, the BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, as well as BC Hydro and the forest company Timberwest.







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## IT WASN'T JUST THE WILDLIFE FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP WHO

FELT LET DOWN. IN 1983 ROD SILVER WAS A BIOLOGIST WITH THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, working on the administration of the new Habitat Conservation Fund. “On July 31st twenty-two of twenty-four auxiliary employees working on HCF enhancement projects were terminated. Gone... part of ‘staffing restrictions’ that came down from on high. No ifs, buts, or whys... Just ‘here’s your pink slip’! Didn’t make a bit of difference that the money was from the designated Conservation Fund. It was a stupid, unthinking blanket decision.” It became obvious to Silver that the problem was not going to be solved by using normal means. “It was time to think outside the government box... and I was of the opinion that the way forward was to find a new way of getting Fund monies out to the vital projects in the field. Remove the job from the government. Of course it required a change in philosophy, but something had to be done to get around the Ministry roadblocks.” Silver had discussions with Terry O’Brien, who was a member of the Habitat Conservation Fund’s Public Advisory Board, and with Carmen Purdy, both of whom were keen to work with Silver and his boss Jim Walker on the issue. It was at this point that the Conservation Foundation stirred... with the timely help from Graham Kenyon, a long time executive member of the BCWF and an environmental manager at the Cominco smelter in Trail, B.C. ♡ Graham Kenyon had been active in the BCWF since the late sixties serving as Director, Vice President and finally, in 1981–1983, President. “Throughout my involvement with the BCWF I saw my mission as being to broaden the base of the Federation from

PREVIOUS PAGE McLeese Lake Kokanee. Photo: Mits Naga

OPPOSITE PAGE Black Tern Chick. Photo: Neil Dawe;  
Canadian Wildlife Service





being essentially a lobby group for fishermen and hunters to encompass a broader environmental mandate, because that’s where I felt the opportunities lay. After all, it was at this time during the late seventies and early eighties that concern for the environment was building up a real head of steam. Given the Federation’s primary concern for wildlife habitat I felt it was important to work out a message that the BC Wildlife Federation could deliver to the public to enable us to be seen in a different, broader light. Not simply the hunting, shooting, fishing image.” Kenyon, now in 1984 serving as Past President of the Wildlife Federation, recognized that the moribund BCCF could be a vehicle to work towards that end. “I had just ended a rather turbulent term as President of the Federation when Terry O’Brien approached me with this proposition to resurrect the Conservation Foundation. So much for ‘retirement’! However it just seemed to fit perfectly with my efforts to attract a broader interest and support base for wildlife conservation; and who could resist working with a team like that?” ♡ Jim Walker, Manager of Habitat for the Wildlife Branch in the Ministry of the Environment, and Rod Silver talked unofficially to their Minister, Tony Brummet, who suggested they try to find some way of resolving the Habitat Conservation Fund “problem” with a non-government partner. Through 1984 and early 1985 the issue was an ongoing topic of discussion with Kenyon and others who were recruited to become directors of the BCCF. And on 25th May 1985 at the Blue Horizon Hotel in Vancouver, Silver explained a vision of how a co-operative venture between the Habitat Conservation Fund and the British Columbia Conservation Foundation might operate.

“THROUGHOUT MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BCWF I SAW MY MISSION AS BEING TO BROADEN THE BASE OF THE FEDERATION FROM BEING ESSENTIALLY A LOBBY GROUP FOR FISHERMEN AND HUNTERS TO ENCOMPASS A BROADER ENVIRONMENTAL MANDATE.”

Graham Kenyon

BELOW Taylor’s Checkerspot butterfly. Photo: Jennifer Heron; Ministry of Environment



The idea was for the BCCF to become a general contractor to administer and manage the conservation enhancement projects under the Habitat Conservation Fund, “...making use of opportunities for cost effectiveness that are unavailable to the government.” “The Wildlife Branch didn’t have the manpower to do the projects for the Fund. It was an opening for us, and the whole idea made perfect sense,” Carmen Purdy explains. While the funding would originate from the HCF, the Ministry of the Environment would still be in overall charge of the projects, although the dreaded Treasury Board would be unable to veto the expenditures from the Fund. Furthermore, and most importantly as far as Kenyon was concerned, with his vision of an independent Foundation broadly supported and unencumbered by the Federation’s primary lobbying role, the operation would be at arms length from the BC Wildlife Federation. All surplus monies would be invested in further conservation projects; this was clearly not to be a funding vehicle for the BCWF. Not surprisingly the directors of the BCCF were quick to grasp the merits of the proposal. In modern parlance, it was a win-win situation. ♡ The meeting was followed up in November 1985 with a formal approach by the BCCF to the Minister of the Environment, The Hon. Austin Pelton. The proposal was called ‘Partners in Conservation’. The outline read in part... “The Habitat Conservation Fund’s projects would proceed through the present process, through to final approval by the Minister of the Environment. The regional staff of the Ministry of Environment would retain responsibility for the direction and technical objectives of the projects. The Foundation would employ the staff and provide the logistical support to implement

the projects.” The document continued by spelling out the opportunities for cost-effectiveness, efficiency and co-operative enterprise that were unavailable to government alone. Finally the BCCF document elaborated on what they thought they themselves would stand to gain. “This partnership would complement the objectives of the Foundation. A role in the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Fund projects would, frankly, enhance our reputation and assist in fund-raising. This would expand our capability to develop our own projects, thus multiplying the ultimate benefits to fish and wildlife. Indirectly this would achieve another of the Fund’s objectives, which is to raise funds for wildlife enhancement beyond the license surcharge.” ♡ “It really did fit with what we wanted to do,” recalls Graham Kenyon. “We envisaged the BCCF as a broader based organization that was at arms length from the Wildlife Federation... and we weren’t shy about telling people that. We realized that not only were we totally capable of managing the government funds from the HCF, but we could actually go beyond that to access money from private companies that would not normally contribute to a lobbying organization.”



## AND WITH THAT FOCUS, VISION AND ENTHUSIASM, THE BRITISH

COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION STOOD AT THE DAWN OF A QUITE DIFFERENT,

new day. “Make no mistake,” says Carmen Purdy. “This really was the brainchild of Graham Kenyon. I credit him

with putting it together and making it work. He was a prophet. We started in the wilderness, but he could see the

way ahead, and his professionalism, intelligence and foresight took us down that road... and very successfully too.”

✦ “Helping Kenyon push the idea through to completion was a team of directors who knew how to make an impact

in the corridors of power...” recalls Rod Silver, the names still fresh in his memory almost twenty-five years after the

event...“Vancouver lawyer Terry O’Brien, BCWF President Carmen Purdy, Dr Peter Larkin, Associate Vice

President, University of British Columbia, John Carter, an engineering technologist with BC Tel from Kamloops and

a Director of the BCWF, Alan Chambers, Professor of Forestry at UBC, and Hon. Henry Bell-Irving, the Lieutenant

Governor of BC – not as a figurehead but an active and enthusiastic member of the BCCF Board. ✦ “Don Robinson

was an ex-head of the Wildlife Branch in Victoria and now, fortuitously, was batting for the BCCF as a director. He

was instrumental in dealing with the Ministry bureaucracy to secure that all-important first contract. And as Finance

Officer for the Foundation, Reid McLean was in charge of setting up the financial policies and procedures... and

there’s absolutely no doubt in my mind that his work was key to convincing the government to take a chance on

implementing a new contract mechanism to help with the HCF investments.” ✦ The first contract, for a period of

three years initially, was agreed upon on the 24th day of March 1986 between ‘Her Majesty The Queen in Right of

the Province of British Columbia, represented by the Minister of the Environment’ and the British Columbia

OPPOSITE PAGE Snorkel Survey in Coquihalla Canyon. Photo: Lower Mainland Steelhead Recovery Team



Conservation Foundation. Now there was work to be done to get the BCCF organization up to speed. With a \$10,000 advance from the Fund, a team was hastily assembled to be in place before the onslaught of expected summer projects arrived. Robert Moody, a biologist with a track record of wildlife habitat research was hired as Executive Director and, initially working from his home in Langley, the BCCF team finally got down to business preparing to manage and administer HCF projects. It was not quite the business model that had originally been envisaged, but one that nevertheless was to be extremely successful for everybody concerned. Looking back, Bill Otway is unstinting in his praise for the way the operation so

quickly got into gear and rose to the challenge. “It was superb. It set the pace for the success of the Foundation. It’s true that it was a change in focus from our original Wildlife Federation idea, but it worked.” ✦ So began an immensely successful enterprise that over more than twenty years has managed and administered somewhere in the order of \$123 million dollars, invested in projects aimed specifically at fish and wildlife conservation and stewardship across the length and breadth of British Columbia. Virtually every corner of the province has benefitted from the extensive project management work undertaken by the BCCF under contract with the Habitat Conservation Fund.





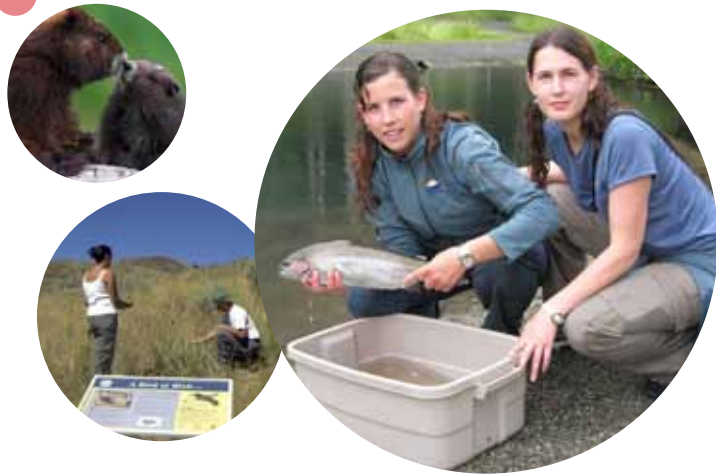
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## THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF THE BCCF'S OPERATIONS ARE TRULY IMPRESSIVE.

THE OPENING SLATE OF PROJECTS FOR THE HCF NUMBERED THIRTY FIVE, and was budgeted at \$750,000, and covered research from Vancouver Island marmots and marten to Cariboo moose, to East Kootenay mule and white-tailed deer, Kootenay elk, and Bighorn sheep... to mention but a small sample of the species studied. The Fisheries projects slate was no less impressive and habitat assessment and enhancement was begun for kokanee, rainbow trout and bass. Spawning streams were improved, lakes were aerated, and education programs were kick-started. "From the start they were successful" says Ed Mankelow, past BCWF President and a subsequent BCCF director "...they had technical and administrative expertise they could call on, they were effective and efficient and dependable, and they got the job done. It was recipe for success." Terry O'Brien, one of the founding members of the BCCF, and one of its longest serving directors wasn't disappointed. "We delivered. Period. And the Government, the Ministry of the Environment, could see we were able to do what we said we would do, and of course the scope of the contracts grew. Initially there were some naysayers at the Ministry who thought we had no business doing what they thought should be government work that should be put out to tender, but we soon demonstrated that we were up to the job." What is more, as current BCCF Chair John Holdstock points out "...the government just couldn't have undertaken these projects on the scale at which we were operating. They didn't have the staff for a start." ♡ In a further effort to expand the business opportunities, a delegation of BCCF directors traveled to Ottawa to make a

OPPOSITE PAGE Vancouver Island marmot telemetry survey. Photo: Cheyney Jackson

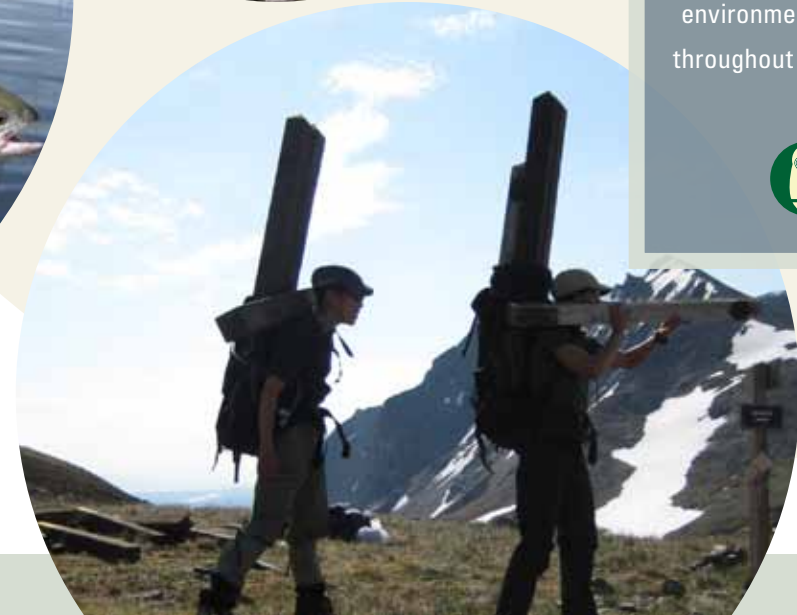




presentation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Forestry to encourage the Federal Government to get involved in this partnership concept. Speaker of the House of Commons John Fraser also proved very supportive. This initiative may have opened the doors for several federal employment initiatives related to wildlife projects that followed. ~ At the end of the 86/87 fiscal year, the BCCF had completed 32 projects for the HCF at a total cost of \$736,000 and banked a surplus of \$5,379. ~ Already the BCCF were spreading their wings, and in early 1987 had signed a contract with Employment and Immigration Canada to undertake a Job Development Program to take on unemployed kids who would be trained for work on conservation projects. This was to be the first of many training projects that the Foundation would take on through the years. ~ The second year of operation, 1987/88, saw an enormous jump in the number of projects undertaken to eighty, including a 10% increase in the Habitat Conservation Fund programs. Two new provincial employment programs not dissimilar to the federal Job Development Program of the previous year were undertaken

and helped push the BCCF's income for the year to more than \$2.6 million! However, the surplus was still a fragile \$9,125 and what was more troubling was that the provincial job-creation programs were cut after only one year, resulting in BCCF staff being laid off. Deborah Gibson who joined the BCCF staff in 1988 and would later be appointed full-time Executive Director remembers the situation well. "I was office manager, Robert Moody was Executive Director and we had one receptionist and two biologists. The major program we had going was Job Trac and Career Trac... which were make-work programs for Income Assistance recipients (Job Trac) and people interested in working in the conservation field (Career Trac). The program was canned March 28th, 1988, and as we had very little other work that required biologists, the two were laid off." The potentially fickle nature of government policy was plain to see... "We realized at the time that it was not good to put all your eggs in one basket so we set forth to diversify." It had been a steep learning curve for the BCCF who now began to focus on finding new clients. "Partners is what we called them," says Graham Kenyon. ~ As a result, since 1986 the BCCF has forged strategic partnerships with all levels of government, industry, corporations, private groups, educational institutions and First Nations. Over five thousand conservation projects have been completed. "They were a great success," says Ed Mankelow. "They landed numerous different contracts from numerous different government departments as well as private firms. They had a great administrative system in place and an ability to deliver that never varied. It was impressive." ~ On the employment program front, there has been an array

of Employment Programs both federal and provincial: Job Development, Job Trac, Career Trac, Canadian Job Strategy, The Federal Summer Student program, Environment Youth Corps initiative and its educational sidekick "The Green Team". Deborah Gibson emphasizes that, "...sixty five per cent of our work involves hiring employees. On average throughout the course of a year we will have two to three hundred employees in the field." No mean feat for an office whose full-time staff can be counted on the fingers of one hand.



As part of the Roderick Haig Brown centenary celebrations in 2008, the BCCF partnered with the BCWF, to establish the **Wild Kidz Camps**; a day-camp program to help children understand the importance of BC's wetlands.

The BC Conservation Corps, managed by the BCCF, has employed more than 550 persons since 2005, on a wide variety of environmental projects throughout the province.







Managing the **Langara Island Seabird Habitat Restoration in the Queen Charlotte Islands** in 1995 was the largest single project undertaken by the Foundation and was carried out in conjunction with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Wildlife Branch of the BC Ministry of Environment, and the Nestucca Trust Fund.



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**ANNUAL CONTRACT INCOME GREW SUBSTANTIALLY** AND BY THE LATE 1990’S EXCEEDED \$12 MILLION. AS A RESULT SURPLUSES IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS COULD BE PLOUGHED BACK INTO WILDLIFE HABITAT ACQUISITION OR ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS. BUT WHAT WERE THE FACTORS THAT LED TO THE BCCF’S OUTSTANDING SUCCESS?

“It’s really hard to pin down exactly why we are so successful,” ponders Executive Director, Deborah Gibson. “Diversification as an administrator of projects is one thing. We’re not specialized in any field or species, but are able to hire the resources needed to get the ‘flavour of the year’ projects completed... I also think in large part it’s the staff’s attitude and dedication to what we do.” ♡ John Holdstock agrees. “I remember being at a Wildlife Federation AGM and we got word that we – the BCCF – had been successful in our bid to take on organizing and managing the BC Conservation Corps and they had to get it off the ground... like right now. I watched Deborah and her staff on the phone just organizing this huge task, working out how they could set things up, and find resources and interview people and so on... It was a huge, daunting task and I was just amazed to see how they managed to pull it all together.” Within the space of a few weeks, the hard work and effort of Deborah and her staff paid off. They got the program off the ground and had

hired 150 graduates and recent graduates to work on conservation projects. As a result, in 2007, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, BCCF received the Premier’s Silver Award for promoting innovation and excellence for the BC Conservation Corps program. ♡ For John Holdstock, the recognition of what the BCCF staff could accomplish was long overdue. “In so many situations I don’t know how they (the different ‘partners’) could have ever gotten the projects done without the BCCF. If they’d tried to do it through government themselves they would have wasted so much money, it would never have been as efficient an operation,” For Terry O’Brien, dependability was a major factor. “Once you’ve established yourself and got a track record you don’t have to go proving yourself every time, and the work comes to you.” And that, according to the Executive Director, is exactly what happened. “As our clients found that working with the BCCF was painless, smooth and efficient, we started to get more and more work. If you provide



a good, needed service, then they will come back... and we always keep that in mind.” ♡ Another factor that made the BCCF so successful was their ability to keep budgets on track and under control. “The paper-thin margins they worked on were utterly impressive” says Ed Mankelow. “...so the HCF, or whoever the funder was, knew they were getting value for money.” The overhead allowances they worked on were between ten and thirteen and a half percent which astounds many observers. “So many contractors will insist on adding between fifty and seventy-five per cent of their budget to cover overheads” says Bill Otway, “but the BCCF was just one lean efficient machine.” ♡ In the latter years of the nineties and into the first years of the new century, regional BCCF offices were established in Kamloops, Guildford (North Surrey), Nanaimo and Prince George (later closed in 2003). Smaller temporary offices were opened in Smithers, Williams Lake and Fort St John as the need arose, demonstrating another of the strengths of the BCCF’s operation: flexibility. “In past years where we have significant volume of work, we could open an office and when the funding decreased we could shut the office down and re-open where the work was,” explains Gibson. Together, the local offices could call on a network of expertise that covered the whole gamut of fisheries, wildlife conservation and management, forest inventory, watershed restoration and ecosystem mapping. With its experienced biologists, ecologists and entomologists as well as engineers and geographers, there is virtually no project that the BCCF’s network could not undertake.

“MAKE NO MISTAKE, THIS REALLY WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF GRAHAM KENYON... HE WAS A PROPHET. WE STARTED IN THE WILDERNESS, BUT HE COULD SEE THE WAY AHEAD.

Carmen Purdy.

BELOW Premier’s Silver Award presentation, Kamloops.

OPPOSITE PAGE Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor.

Photo: Kathleen Sheppard;  
The Land Conservancy of BC



## EVER SINCE THE BCCF HAD BEEN A TWINKLING IN THE BC WILDLIFE

FEDERATION’S EYE IN THE LATE 1960’S, ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES WAS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO HELP ACQUIRE SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT AROUND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Even before the Foundation changed their focus to project management in the mid 1980’s, the Directors had donated \$10,000 to help to buy critical wildlife habitat in the south Okanagan at Vaseaux Lake used by the endangered California Bighorn sheep population. But after 1986, the main thrust of the Foundation tended toward conservation project management and the acquisition program was somewhat sidelined... although not forgotten. In 1997 Carmen Purdy suggested that his fellow BCCF directors establish the Habitat Sustainability Fund – a \$125,000 land acquisition reserve – later called the ‘Land for Wildlife Fund’, funded from the surpluses earned from project management.





Developed in 1998, the “**Bear Aware Program**” uses education, innovation and cooperation to reduce bear-human conflict in neighbourhoods. Over the past decade, strong partnerships with communities and support funding from government and the private sector have helped deliver the program in over 50 communities in every region of the province.



Purdy, who is past Chair of the BCCF and Past President of the BCWE, a director of the Nature Trust, and the founding president of the Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, applauds the decision. “The Land for Wildlife Fund was what we had always aimed at in the BCCF. It was one of the original ideas when the Wildlife Federation first suggested setting up the Foundation way back when. It just never quite worked out that way, but it was wonderful to see when it did become possible how the entire Foundation embraced the concept. Of course we don’t have the sort of money to buy stuff outright, but together with other concerned parties, we make a difference.” “If you look back at the original mission statement written all those years ago...” says Deborah Gibson, “...it’s there in black and white... and today, forty years on, we’ve come full circle. But look at what has been achieved in that time. Not only the Land for Wildlife Fund but \$120 million plus of vital conservation work completed all across the province. I think it’s more than any of us ever dreamed was possible.” ♡ Since 1997 the Land for Wildlife Fund has invested over \$320,000 in a coordinated, multi-million dollar effort with other conservation groups to buy and preserve critical habitats. To date the BCCF’s partners have been The Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, the Nature Trust of BC, Ducks Unlimited, the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program and the Nature Conservancy of Canada. So far, the BCCF has partnered on the purchase of eleven properties, donating between ten and fifty thousand dollars to each deal. At the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the BCCF, the Land for Wildlife Fund stands at a highly

creditable \$357,732. Carmen Purdy cannot conceal his enthusiasm. “With the purchase of each of the properties, wildlife and fisheries wins hands down. Many blue-listed – critically endangered – wild species now have a better chance to survive and prosper. It’s definitely the right thing to do.”

“FROM THE START THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL, THEY HAD TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTISE THEY COULD CALL ON, THEY WERE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AND DEPENDABLE, AND THEY GOT THE JOB DONE.”

Ed Mankelow





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Federal 38%.....

Miscellaneous 4%.....

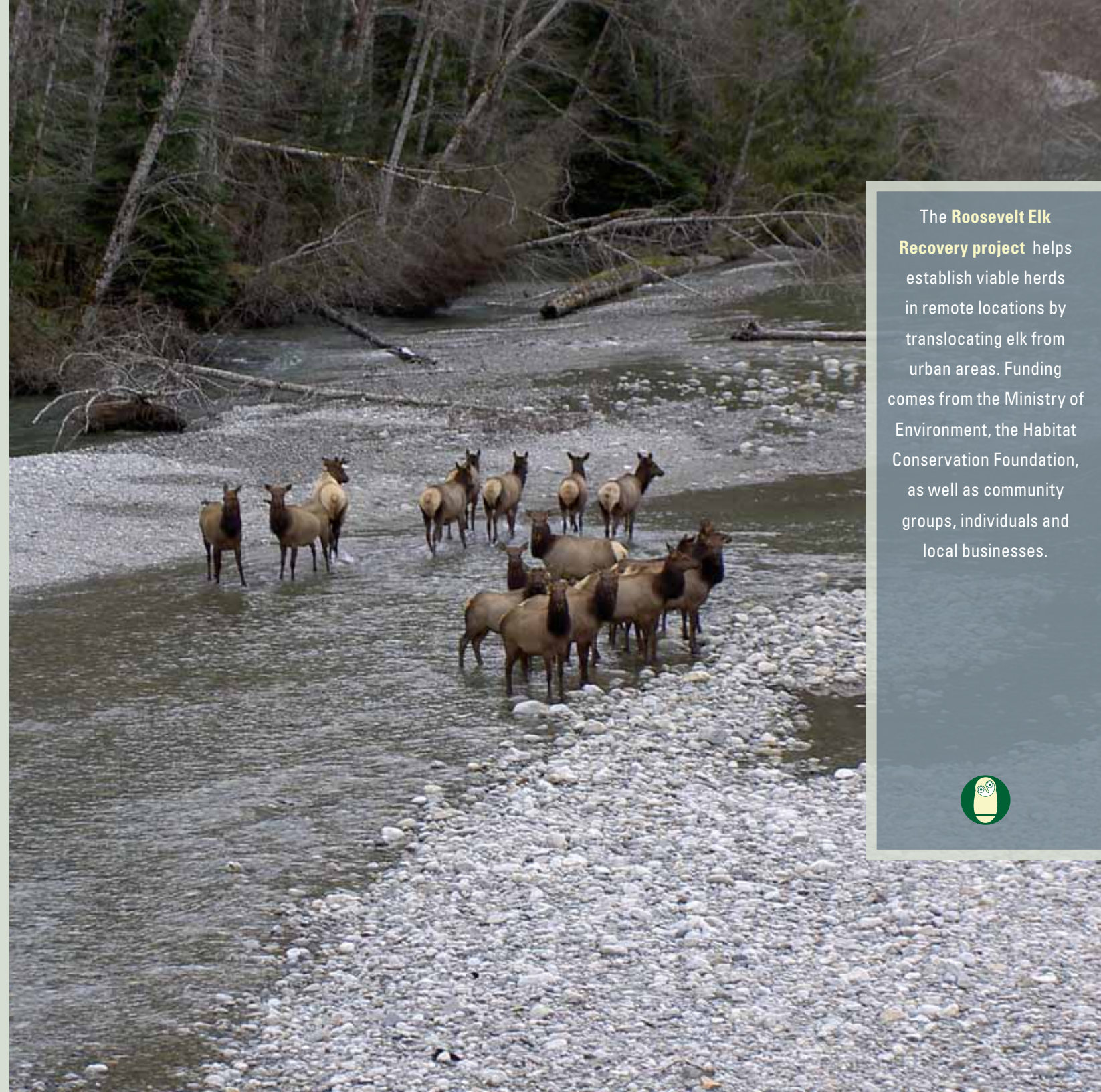
Province 6%.....

HCTF 52%.....

### Project Dollar Allocation

1988 / 1999 Fiscal Year

OPPOSITE PAGE Roosevelt Elk. Photo: Darryl Reynolds; Ministry of Environment



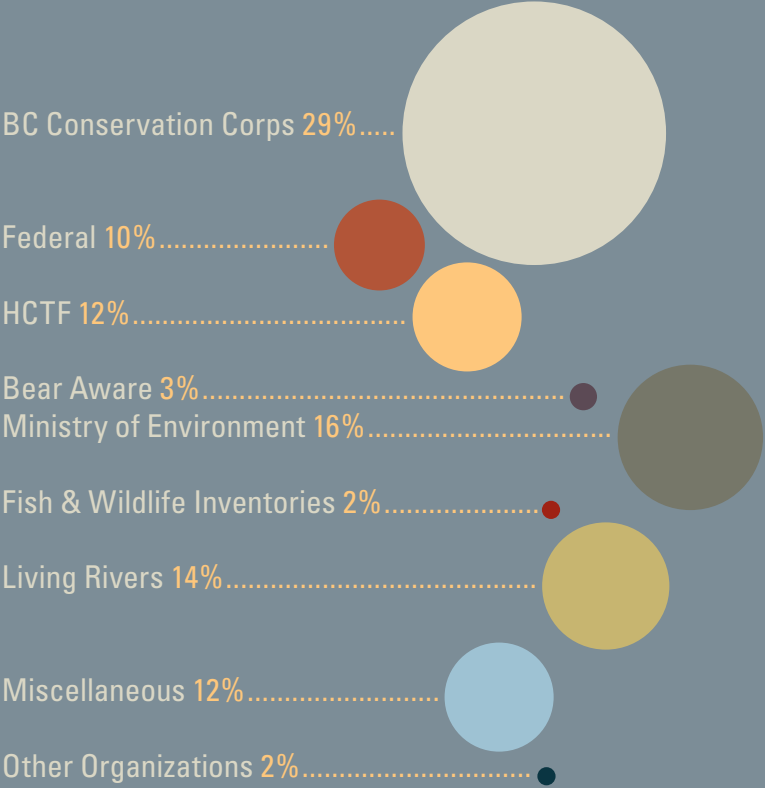
The **Roosevelt Elk Recovery project** helps establish viable herds in remote locations by translocating elk from urban areas. Funding comes from the Ministry of Environment, the Habitat Conservation Foundation, as well as community groups, individuals and local businesses.







Every year in BC almost 20,000 collisions with wildlife take place. **The Wildlife Vehicle Accident Prevention Program** was a partnership venture with the Insurance Corporation of BC, the BC Wildlife Federation, as well as eight other Federal, Provincial, and private organizations, to test a system that would give drivers a ‘heads-up’ that game animals were ahead.



**Project Dollar Allocation**  
2007 / 2008 Fiscal Year





# MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AGO THE DIRECTORS OF THE BC WILDLIFE

FEDERATION HAD A CONSERVATION DREAM THAT IN TIME BECAME THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION. Quietly and consistently, over four decades, thanks to countless hard-working individuals the BCCF has more than achieved the goals it set for itself. As a result, British Columbia’s fish and wildlife have benefitted enormously and will continue to do so. In January 2008 the Board of Directors and management of the BCCF gave a commitment that, “We will strive to maintain, nurture and develop new client relationships while rekindling and building old ones. We will promote our organization fully to ensure that we are able in the long run, to support the efforts of local conservation organizations in their efforts to enhance and conserve fish and wildlife populations.” If their record to date is anything to go by, the fish and wildlife of our Province of British Columbia are in good hands for at least the next forty years.

ABOVE Nanika-Kidprice canoe route. Photo: Rumi Kodama



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## BCCF CHAIRPERSONS

JOHN HOLDSTOCK	2002	2008
CARMEN PURDY	2000	2002
RAY DEMARCHI	1998	2000
PHIL HALLINAN	1996	1998
CARL LANDERKIN	1994	1996
DON ROBINSON	1992	1994
ALLARD VAN VEEN	1990	1992
PETER LARKIN	1988	1990
GRAHAM KENYON	1984	1988
CARMEN PURDY	1982	1984
ARTHUR DOWNS	1978	1982
BILL OTWAY	1977	1978
ROBERT PEDERSEN	1973	1977
R.H. PHILLIPS	1969	1973



ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF BCCF DIRECTORS

OTTO ANDERSEN

BOB AUBRY

EDWARD E. BARSBY

BRIAN BELL

THE HONORABLE HENRY P. BELL-IRVING

BILL BOSCH

AL BREITKREUTZ

DENNIS BROWN

JOHN CARTER

DR. ALAN CHAMBERS

DARLENE CLARK

YVONNE CLARKE

JACK COLLINS

RAYMOND DEMARCHI

ARTHUR DOWNS

BILL DUMONT

PAT EVERATT

ROSS EVERATT

MICHAEL FOWLER

ED GEORGE

RICHARD GREEN

JACK GRUNDLE

PHIL HALLINAN

IAN HAYWOOD

RONALD HEAD

J. ROBIN HEATHER

RICHARD HEIM

JIM HELSDON

JOHN HOLDSTOCK

SHAUN HOLLINGSWORTH

ELTON HUNTER

WALLY KAMPEN

GRAHAM KENYON

CARL LANDERKIN

DR. PETER LARKIN

IVAR LARSON

RUSS LEDGER

HEATHER LEMIEUX

REID MACLEAN

RAY MAHER

EDWARD MANKELOW

GARY MAUSER

DAVID H. MAW

RICK MAYOR

JOAN MCKAY

VICKY MCKINNON

GRACE MERSEREAU

DOUG MILLER

BOB MORRIS

DAVE NARVER

GREG NORTON

TERENCE C. O'BRIEN

BILL OTWAY

HOWARD PAISH

ROBERT N. PEDERSEN

RICH PETERSEN

ANDY PEZDERIC

WILF PFLEIDERER

R. H. PHILLIPS

CARMEN PURDY

STU REEDER

BRIAN CHEER ROBERTS

DON ROBINSON

EUGENE ROGERS

GREG SAWCHUK

LEN SHAW

GEORGE SMITH

PAUL D. SMITH

IAN STACEY

DONALD A. STEWART

KENNETH SUMANIK

RONALD THIEL

BARRY M. THORNTON

RON THOMAS

DON TRETHEWEY

NORM TUCKER

ALLARD VAN VEEN

PAT WELLS

DAVE WHITE

ROD WIEBE

GEORGE WILSON

MARK WILTSHIRE

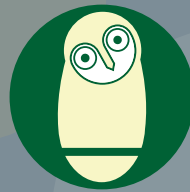
BILL WIMPNEY

WILLIAM YEOMANS



Ministry of  
Environment





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