

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"The times, they are a-changin'" - Bob Dylan*

A change of seasons, changes in organizational leadership and changes in staff personnel. Times really are a changin'. Change is real and change can be difficult. This year change has happened more significantly than in the past at the BC Conservation Foundation. Our long-time leader, Deborah Gibson, retired after 34 years at the helm. Wendy Budzan, our Accounting Coordinator who kept the books in order for 21 years also retired. A truly remarkable run by both individuals and we wish Deborah and Wendy the best in retirement.

Along with transitions emerge new opportunities. I have had the privilege to replace Deborah as Executive Director in the spring of 2022. Since then, our board and staff team have been busy working on a new strategic plan that will set the organization's direction for the next three years.

*Let's walk on this journey together.*

Yours in Conservation,



David Hendrickson, PhD RPP MCIP  
BCCF Executive Director



I also continue to meet with numerous constituents from various levels of government, First Nations communities and civil society to share our stories.

I have mentioned to others that I believe BC Conservation Foundation is the province's best kept secret! We have big plans to change that in the coming days by increasing our profile, engagement, program offerings and online presence.

New staff hires have energized and filled out our team as we welcomed Kayla Wiens in Kamloops, Kirsten Stochmal in Nanaimo, and Ranil Prasad, Allison Bachman and Johana Mocanu in our Lower Mainland Office. I hope you will join us in getting to know about BC Conservation Foundation and what we have to offer. We bring unique offerings to create positive change for thriving fish and wildlife populations and land acquisition throughout British Columbia.

# Board of Directors

John Shepherd (Chair)  
Jen Bellhouse (Vice-Chair)  
Joan Lindsay (Treasurer)  
Chuck Zuckerman (Secretary)  
Doug Janz (Past President)  
Bill Bosch  
Ted Brookman  
Dave Harper  
David Lewis  
Mark McDonald  
Gerry Paille  
Jared Wilkison



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# BC Conservation Foundation

This past year, BCCF has been undergoing significant transitions. A changing of the guard, so to speak, as Deborah Gibson retired after 34 years and David Hendrickson moved into this role. As with the changing of the seasons, change also brings new opportunities. BC Conservation Foundation is well positioned and equipped to take on new challenges, to continue doing what we do well, and even move beyond our current offerings.

The board and staff embarked on a 2023-2026 Strategic Plan in the fall of 2022. We initiated a new Indigenous Engagement Committee as Indigenous groups and UNDRIP legislation present new partnership opportunities to expand into and increase impact. We are planning to launch a new website, newsletter and social media.

## Project Management

Project management services for environmental conservation continue to be the Foundation's forte. Last year we successfully delivered almost 500 projects worth over \$11 million in projects from Fort Nelson to Osoyoos. We continue to have a storefront presence in the communities we live and work in on Vancouver Island, in Kamloops and in the Lower Mainland.

# Vancouver Island Water for Fish (Nanaimo)

The Bottlenecks to Survival Program, a collaboration between Pacific Salmon Foundation and BCCF, is investigating when and where Chinook, Coho and Steelhead are facing critical mortality periods or “bottlenecks” during the freshwater and early marine periods of life.

The key focus is on East Coast Vancouver Island stocks (Cowichan, Nanaimo, Englishman, Qualicum, Puntledge, Black Creek, Quinsam). Research activities include:

1. Establishing an extensive marine and freshwater PIT-tagging program and network of PIT tag monitoring antennas on several priority river systems and hatcheries;
2. Conducting a detailed investigation of the ecology of first-ocean-winter Chinook;
3. Evaluating survival bottlenecks and hatchery optimization strategies for juvenile and adult Steelhead; and
4. Piloting the use of PIT and video technology to enhance recreational catch monitoring.

The four-year research program is nearing its halfway point and has achieved a tremendous amount by working with First Nations, provincial and federal governments, academic institutions and citizen scientists.

# Southwest BC (Surrey)

BCCF has been supporting the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program since 2013, progressing from three staff and a few endangered owls to multiple aviaries, a specialized incubation room housing advanced chick-rearing equipment, and up to 16 staff during the busiest times of the year.

The conservation of endangered species in BC took a monumental step forward in August as three spotted owls born and raised in a breeding facility were released into protected habitat in the Fraser Canyon, which was the first release of these rare birds into the wild anywhere.

The Western Painted Turtle Recovery is a Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program initiative to restore Western Painted Turtle populations in southwestern BC. BCCF administered funding provides for two breeding facilities, wetland restoration, and monitoring activities in partnership with Ministry of Forests, local biologists and Wildlife Preservation Canada. Another successful year included releasing 163 turtles to wetlands throughout the Lower Mainland, the Sunshine Coast and Saltspring Island.



# Central and Northern BC (Kamloops)

The Forest and Range Evaluation Program is a joint monitoring program between Indigenous communities and the Ministry of Forests. Training and co-sampling provides valuable opportunities to build relationships, and mutually learn and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and western science into resource stewardship. Land-use aspects examined include riparian areas, water quality, cultural heritage, biodiversity, and forest and range practices.

Lake Ranch Project is a five-year partnership to enhance the ecosystem of two conservation land parcels in the Kootneys owned by The Nature Trust of BC. BCCF has been assisting with logistics, budgeting and work planning to get the project underway.

The Bonaparte River, Louis Creek and Deadman Rivers - like many interior BC streams - have become volatile in runoff patterns during recent years. Logging and agricultural practices combined with recent wildfire events and other climate change factors are primary drivers causing these changes. Habitat restoration activity helps to mitigate these impacts. The Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans identified the Bonaparte River and Louis Creek sites as concerns due to fish habitat and water quality impacts affecting downstream spawning and rearing potential. The First Nation Skeetchestn Band identified restoration activities due to ongoing stream bank erosion. Berms were installed and eroding banks were restructured with rock and wood habitat structures.

A Fisher Exchange was held in the fall of 2022 with two commercial fishermen and an Order of Canada chef, who attended to learn about this restoration work in BC's interior waterways.



# Indigenous Engagement

The newly formed Indigenous Engagement Committee has staff and board representation and aims to identify additional tools and opportunities to collaborate with Indigenous communities for mutually beneficial conservation outcomes. In the fall, we held our first webinar with a partner conservation organization sharing experiences on engaging with Indigenous communities.

# WildSafeBC

WildSafeBC (formerly Bear Aware) is the provincial leader in preventing conflict with wildlife through collaboration, education and community solutions. Human-wildlife conflicts are increasing in BC. In 2021, the Conservation Officer Service received over 36,000 calls regarding wildlife.

A Provincial Advisory Committee supports WildSafeBC with representatives from Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, BC Parks and academia.

WildSafeBC Coordinators delivered education to raise awareness about local wildlife and human-wildlife conflict issues. In 2021, Coordinators had over 45,000 direct connections with British Columbians to increase education and awareness. These included:

- Over 184,000 page views via our website.
- WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (partnership between the Province and WildSafeBC) provides timely and accessible wildlife activity reports.
- Social media engages over 25,000 Facebook followers for timely and seasonal information.
- Almost 2,000 people took educational e-learning courses on Wildlife Awareness and Safety.

# Wildlife Collision Prevention Program

The Wildlife Collision Prevention Program has experienced many changes over the past two years. WCPP uses social media platforms to complement traditional sources of information and outreach such as radio ads and billboards. Gayle Hesse's retirement and Meg Bjordal's departure have created opportunities to reimagine and reinvigorate the program in 2023. We held an expert stakeholder consultation session to identify policy implications we will pursue in the months ahead.



# Land for Wildlife Fund

BCCF awarded \$25,000 to the Southern Interior Land Trust Society (SILT) to acquire Bourguiba Spring - Lot 16, Osoyoos for conservation in perpetuity. Lot 16 is 16.6 ha (41 acres) of open, moderately to steeply sloped low-elevation (600m) bunchgrass grassland interspersed with open sagebrush and other shrubs.



# Small Projects Fund

Nine projects totaling \$67,626 were awarded. Successful applicants included:

- Blue Sky Interpretive Services (for Kokanee Salmon School Program)
- BC Wildlife Federation
- Kokanee Creek Nature Centre Society
- North Shore Streamkeepers
- Save Estuary Land Society
- The University of British Columbia
- Simpcw Resources Group
- Wildlife Collision Prevention Program
- Vancouver Avian Research Center Society

BCCF awarded \$20,500 to Mastermind Studios, *If Salmon Could Talk*. The documentary tells the story of how BC's commercial fishery is at risk from many factors including extreme climate change events and how collaborative habitat restoration projects are underway to save Salmon for future generations.

Through interviews with industry stakeholders and subject matter experts, viewers gain a better understanding of the importance of Pacific Salmon and habitat restoration efforts in the BC Interior.

# Educational Scholarships

Dr. Ian and Joyce McTaggart-Cowan Scholarship in Environmental Studies Recipient for 2022 - Astra Lincoln from the University of Victoria - \$1,770.

- Available for students in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Restoration at UVic.

JB Holdstock Scholarship Recipient for 2022 – Julian Gullo from Thompson Rivers University - \$1,000.

- Available for BC residents attending university or college in the sciences or related field



# Program Development

BC Conservation Foundation has a robust project management and financial reporting system. Staff are spending more time in the field to build relationships and awareness about our services.

In the meantime, we need new and old constituents to help us in our cause to support conservation in BC. Help us conserve nature, fish and wildlife in this beautiful province we call home. We are looking for those with diverse skill sets to get involved, whether it be volunteering, by becoming a donor or volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors. We look forward to working with you in the days ahead.



# Audited Financials

BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION  
Statement of Financial Position  
March 31, 2022

	2022	2021 <i>(Unaudited)</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents <i>(Note 4)</i>	\$ 428,214	\$ 310,964
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	516,519	581,880
Accounts receivable	2,443,609	2,340,837
Prepaid expenses	16,386	26,147
	<u>3,404,728</u>	<u>3,259,828</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT <i>(Note 5)</i>	<u>382,590</u>	<u>393,284</u>
	<u>\$ 3,787,318</u>	<u>\$ 3,653,112</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 950,948	\$ 976,212
Employee deductions payable	66,390	53,414
Deferred contributions <i>(Note 6)</i>	1,349,586	1,390,619
	<u>2,366,924</u>	<u>2,420,245</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted reserves	521,285	257,703
Internally restricted reserves <i>(Note 10)</i>	516,519	581,880
Investment in capital assets	382,590	393,284
	<u>1,420,394</u>	<u>1,232,867</u>
	<u>\$ 3,787,318</u>	<u>\$ 3,653,112</u>





## Make a Donation



Yes! I want to support fish and wildlife populations through education, collaboration, and habitat conservation!

I would like to make a monthly gift of:

\$5       \$10       \$20       \$50       \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a one-time gift of:

\$25       \$50       \$100       \$250       \$\_\_\_\_\_

I will make my gift via:

Cheque     Credit Card

Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for Your Support!

Tax receipts are issued for donations greater than \$25 per year.  
Charitable ID #123042822RR001

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# Acknowledgements

## Photo Credits

- Danny Swainson - Pages 1, 3, and 8
- Ray Maichin - Page 7
- Erika Momeyer - Page 13
- Roy Rea - Page 11



*This report was produced on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the q̓ícá y̓ (Katzie), SEMYOME (Semiahmoo) and Kwantlen First Nations who have been the stewards of this land since time immemorial.*