



Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk Application Overview British Columbia and Yukon 2017-2018

It is our pleasure to announce the call for proposals for the 14th year of the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program. Proposals will be accepted in British Columbia and Yukon until **9pm Pacific Standard Time on December 9th, 2016. All applicants are required to submit their application on-line, at <http://www.recovery.gc.ca/AFSAR-FAEP>**

The Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR) was developed by the Government of Canada to assist Aboriginal communities and organizations in building their capacity for participating in the implementation of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and to support Aboriginal involvement in activities that protect or restore habitats for species at risk. This original stream of the AFSAR is called the **Species at Risk Stream**.

In addition to the Species at Risk Stream for AFSAR, in 2014 the Federal Government expanded AFSAR by creating the **AFSAR Prevention Stream**. The Prevention Stream funds projects addressing the protection and recovery of species which are not listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA), with the intent of preventing species from becoming of conservation concern. Eligible projects under the AFSAR Prevention Stream could include, for example, projects focusing on the conservation or recovery of species of food, social, ceremonial and cultural importance to Aboriginal communities.

AFSAR is one of several Environment Canada funding programs, including the Habitat Stewardship Program, the National Wetland Conservation Fund, the Interdepartmental Recovery Fund, and the EcoAction Community Funding Program. While applicants may apply to multiple Environment Canada funding programs, they must demonstrate that the proposed activities under each program are distinct.

Each year Environment Canada identifies priorities for AFSAR funding. These priorities are described as particular areas, species or threats. In the National Call Letter you will find a list of the over-arching national priorities, while the additional regional priorities can be found below.

For detailed information on how to apply to AFSAR, and for further program information, please refer to the National Call Letter and Application Guidelines. We hope that you will consider applying to the AFSAR program. The Program Coordinators look forward to talking with you about your project ideas.

Pacific & Yukon Region Requirements and Priorities for 2017-2018

For the Species at Risk stream of AFSAR, in order to be eligible for funding, projects must conduct work on species that are listed under Schedule 1 of SARA. For a complete list of SARA Schedule 1 species, please refer to the SARA Registry: www.sararegistry.gc.ca.

Applicants are encouraged to review existing recovery documents for species-specific threats and recovery actions. Applicants are also encouraged to contact the appropriate aquatic or terrestrial species lead for advice and guidance during the development of their project proposal to ensure coordination with other recovery activities and consistency with program priorities for 2017-2018.

For the Prevention stream of AFSAR, projects must target species not listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act. However, projects may focus work on species designated as 'at risk' by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) but not yet listed under the Species at Risk Act. For a complete list of COSEWIC species, please refer to their website: www.cosewic.gc.ca.

For both AFSAR streams, we strongly encourage projects that utilize a coordinated multi-species approach to stewardship and recovery, and projects which take advantage of partnerships with other organizations and communities as much as possible.

Please note that outreach-based activities will need to clearly demonstrate that they are focused on achieving the goals of recovery for the target species at risk, and are linked to AFSAR's expected results.

Due to the high demand for funding, in order to be considered for AFSAR funding proposals must address at least one of the national priorities (as outlined in the National Call Letter) and one or more of the regional priorities described below for fiscal year 2017-2018. Please note that regional priorities may be updated on an annual basis.

Aquatic Priorities for the Species at Risk stream, 2017-18 are:

Priority Species:

- Northern Abalone (*Haliotis kamtschatkana*)
- Killer Whales (*Orcinus orca*)
- White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) - designatable units listed under the Species at Risk Act
- Large Whales - Blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), Fin (*Balaenoptera physalus*) and Sei (*Balaenoptera borealis*) Whales

Priority Areas:

- Fraser River watershed
- Columbia River watershed

Priority Threats:

- Illegal harvest (direct/indirect)
- Invasive species
- Vessel traffic in North and Central Coast

Aquatic Priorities for the Prevention Stream, 2017-18 are:

Priority Species:

- Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)
- Bocaccio Rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) and Quillback Rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*)
- Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) - interior Fraser population
- Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) - Sakinaw population, Skeena-Nass populations and Fraser River Drainage
- Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) - Okanagan population, Fraser River, Sunshine Coast, and Vancouver Island
- Chum Salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) - North Coast populations

Priority Threats:

- Projects that identify and address the effects of multiple interacting threats to aquatic life.
- Projects that identify and address limiting habitat threats. Limiting threats occur in some cases where a single and obvious factor substantially reduces the sustainability or recovery of an aquatic population. Projects must provide evidence-based assessment of the importance of the proposed limitation.
- Projects that focus on rehabilitation actions for habitat that has been altered or degraded to the detriment of aquatic life.
- Projects that mitigate barriers to migration for fish.
- Projects that help identify and reduce the effects of fisheries by-catch.

Terrestrial Priorities for the Species at Risk stream, 2017-18 are:

Priority Species:

- Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) – Boreal and Southern Mountain populations.
- Northern or Little Brown Myotis
- Vancouver Island Marmot

Priority Areas (see Figure 1):

- Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone, including South East coast of Vancouver Island and adjacent islands, and Garry Oak Ecosystems.
- Lower Fraser Valley from Chilliwack to the Fraser River delta
- Ponderosa Pine biogeoclimatic zone

- Bunchgrass biogeoclimatic zone
- Creston Valley

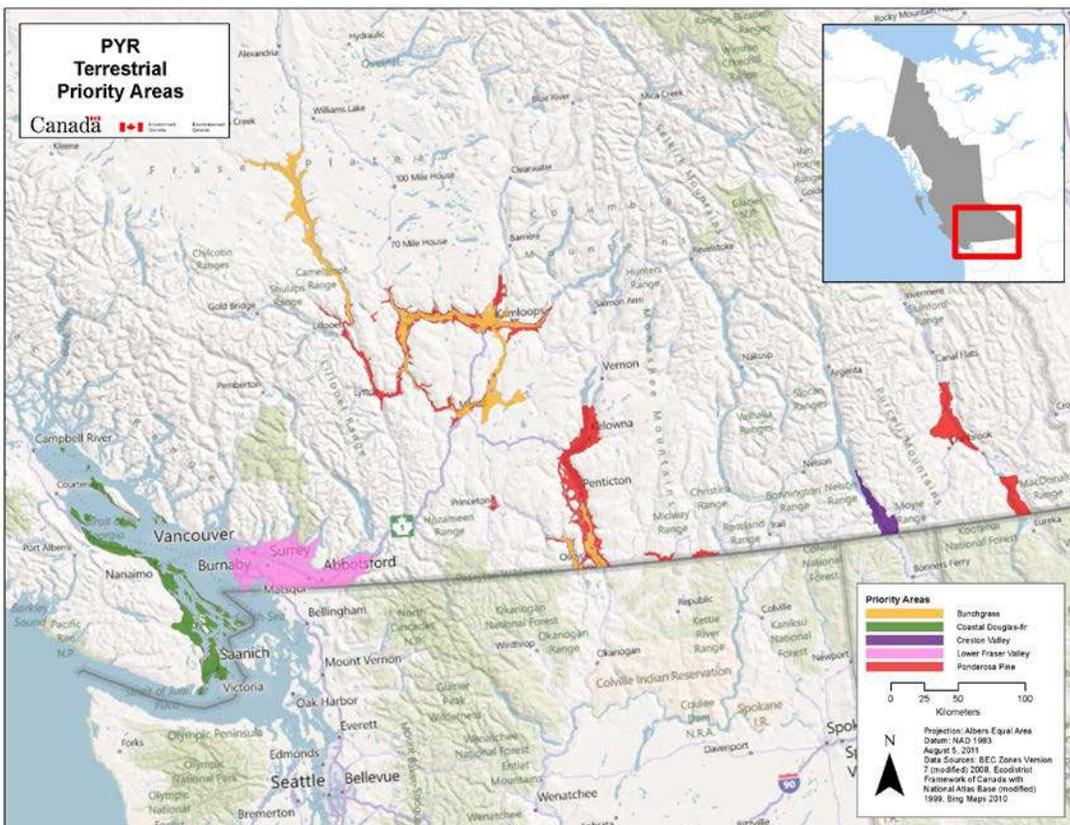
Priority Threats:

- Projects pursuing long-term/self-sustaining solutions to the issue of **invasive species introduction and spread** (e.g., bio-control, bylaw development, access restrictions, or complete eradication in systems with low risk of reintroduction). This can include projects aimed at preventing the spread and/or mitigating the impacts of introduced pathogens (e.g., the fungus species responsible for causing White Pine Blister Rust and White Nose Syndrome).
- Projects addressing **recreational activities** that are having a detrimental impact on critical or important habitat for species at risk, and that are described in a draft or final recovery document.

Terrestrial Priorities for the Prevention Stream, 2017-18 are:

There are no additional regional priorities for the Terrestrial AFSAR Prevention Stream. Please refer to the priorities in the National Call Letter, or speak with a Regional Coordinator if you have questions.

Figure 1: Terrestrial Priority Areas for AFSAR Species at Risk Stream



Other Areas in British Columbia and Yukon:

For the Terrestrial Species at Risk stream of AFSAR, strong proposals from outside of the terrestrial priority areas (See Figure 1) will also be considered for funding, provided that they meet program eligibility requirements and respond to priority recovery activities for species at risk.

Please take the time to carefully review the National Call Letter and Application Guides for both the Species at Risk and Prevention streams for further information about the AFSAR program requirements and the application process. For additional questions please contact the appropriate Regional Coordinator.

Regional Coordinator Contact Information:

For Terrestrial Species projects in British Columbia:

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AFSAR Regional Coordinator
Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service
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For Aquatic Species projects in British Columbia:

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For Projects in the Yukon:

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We use an Expression of Interest process (the form is available on the AFSAR website), which allows the regional coordinator to assess eligibility and provide support to applicants early in the application process. Please note that **an Expression of Interest** must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Coordinator (listed above) for review, no later than **November 18th, 2016**.

Applicants must contact their regional AFSAR coordinator in order to receive login information to the AFSAR website, for both funding streams. We strongly recommend you obtain login information and draft your proposal well in advance of the deadline, in the event you need assistance.

Applications must be received by 9pm Pacific Standard Time on December 9th, 2016.