



## HABITAT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION OVERVIEW PACIFIC AND YUKON REGION 2017 – 2018

It is our pleasure to announce the call for proposals for the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP). Proposals will be accepted in British Columbia and Yukon until **9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. **All applicants are required to submit their application online, at <https://www.retablissement-recovery.gc.ca/HSP-PIH/index.cfm>**

The Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) was established to provide funding for activities that support the conservation and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. This original stream of the HSP is called the **Species at Risk Stream**. The HSP was expanded in 2014, and now includes the new **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 them from becoming of conservation concern. Going forward, funding under HSP will be separated into these two streams.

Each year Environment Canada identifies priorities for HSP 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.

The HSP is one of several Environment Canada funding programs, including the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk, 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.

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

### ***British Columbia and Yukon Requirements and Priorities for 2017-18***

**For the Species at Risk stream of the HSP**, 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](http://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 the HSP**, projects must target species not listed on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act. While not required, 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](http://www.cosewic.gc.ca).

**For both HSP 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, by being linked to the HSP's expected results.

Due to the high demand for funding, in order to be considered for HSP 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 are 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*)
- Salish Sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*)
- 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:*

- Lower Fraser Valley / Fraser River watershed
- Columbia River watershed

*Priority Threats:*

- Invasive species
- Vessel traffic in the Strait of Georgia
- Entanglement of marine pelagic species

**Aquatic Priorities for the Prevention stream, 2017-18 are:**

*Note: The priorities below apply only to species not listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act.*

*Priority Species:*

- Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*)
- Bocaccio Rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*) and Quillback Rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*)
- Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) – interior Fraser populations
- 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:**

*Note: The priorities below apply only to species not listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act.*

### *Priority Species:*

#### British Columbia:

- Bird species with population objectives of “Increase 50%” or “Increase 100%”, identified in the Environment Canada Bird Conservation Region Strategies for regions 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. To obtain the Bird Conservation region strategy for your area, see <https://www.ec.gc.ca/mbc-com/default.asp?lang=En&n=1D15657A-1> or [http://www.nabci.net/Canada/English/bird\\_conservation\\_regions.html](http://www.nabci.net/Canada/English/bird_conservation_regions.html)
- Terrestrial mammals, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants ranked under the British Columbia Conservation Framework as a priority 1 or 2 under Goal 2 (“To prevent species and ecosystems from becoming at risk”). Conservation Framework data can be downloaded <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk/setting-priorities/conservation-framework-results>.

#### Yukon:

- Species with a subregional Status Rank of S1, S2, or S1S2, and a National Status Rank of N1, N2 or N1N2 on the Yukon Conservation Data Center’s Animal and Plant Track Lists (<http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/animals-habitat/cdc.php>), or
- Species assessed by COSEWIC as Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered, but not yet listed under SARA.

### *Priority Areas:*

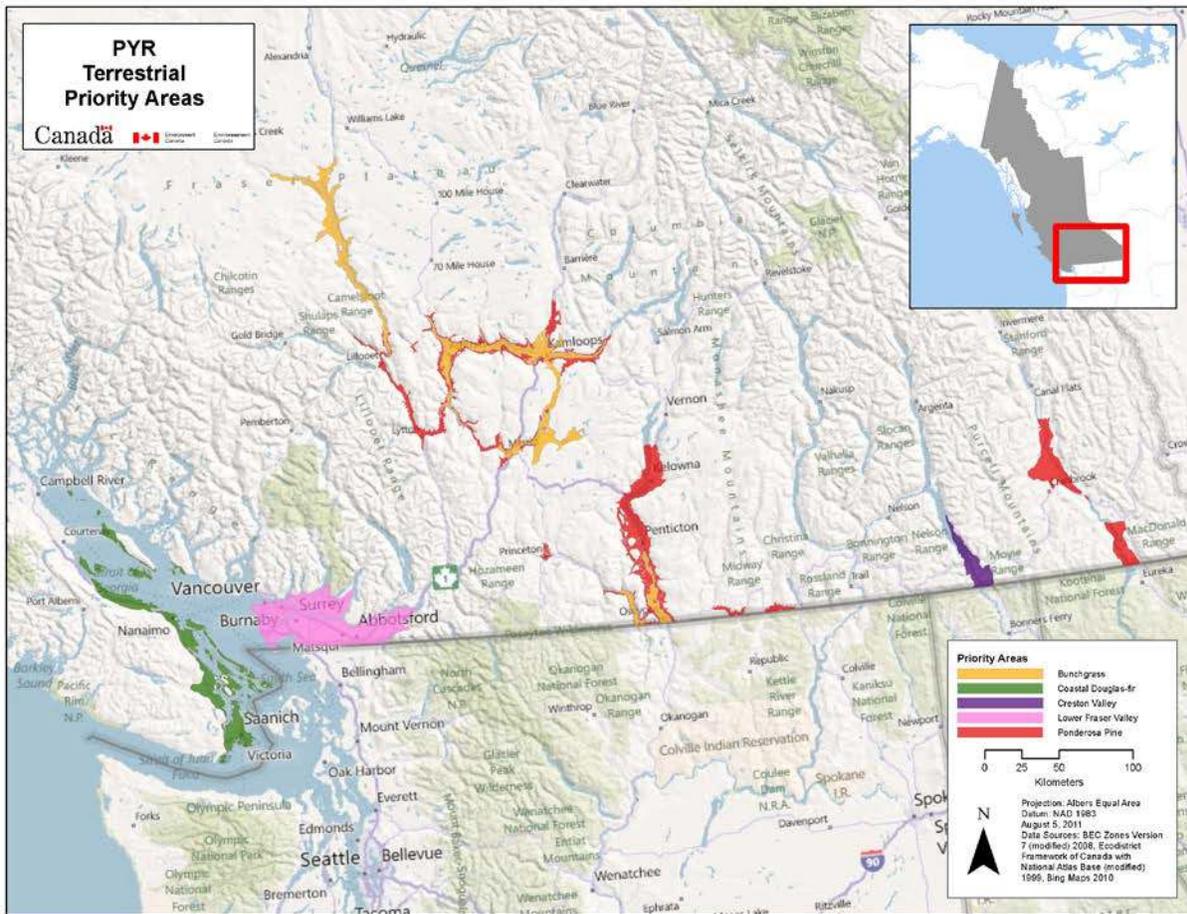
For projects pursuing habitat restoration or protection:

- British Columbia: grassland, riparian and old forest habitats under 750 m elevation
- Yukon: grassland, riparian, old forest, dune, and saline flats habitats under 1000 m elevation

### *Priority Threats:*

- BC and Yukon: Projects addressing direct sources of bird mortality caused by cats or collisions with buildings/infrastructure.
- Yukon only: Projects working to reduce or prevent habitat fragmentation or direct mortality of wildlife caused by existing or proposed linear developments.

**Figure 1: Terrestrial Priority Areas for HSP Species at Risk Stream**



**Other Areas in Pacific and Yukon Region**

For the Terrestrial Species at Risk stream of the HSP, 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 Habitat Stewardship 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:*

Megan Harrison  
HSP Regional Coordinator  
Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service  
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*For Aquatic Species projects in British Columbia:*

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HSP Regional Coordinator  
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*For Projects in the Yukon:*

Saleem Dar  
Northern Liaison Biologist  
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We use an Expression of Interest process (available on-line at the HSP 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

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

**Applications must be received by 9:00 pm Pacific Standard Time on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**