

# WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

## 2016-2017 Grant Program Guidance Document

---



*2016 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image,  
"Offshore Wind – Surf Scoters" by Pierre Leduc.*

---

Without habitat, there is no wildlife...  
it's that simple!



## 2016-2017 Grant Program Guidance Document

As required by the **Contribution Agreement with Environment Canada (EC)**, a guidance document was developed to assist Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) grantees in collecting and reporting project data.

By implementing specific reporting requirements for approved projects, WHC can collect the data necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the grant program. This is done by comparing project results against WHC's performance indicators.

### **What is a performance indicator?**

"Performance indicators are measurable results that demonstrate how a project's objectives are met."<sup>1</sup>

WHC's grant application form and reporting templates have been designed to collect the project results and information that are required for evaluating the grant program.

**The Contribution Agreement with EC requires WHC** to inform funding recipients on collecting and reporting on data associated with WHC's performance indicators. Please refer to the information below.

### WHC Grant Program Performance Indicators and Reporting Requirements

#### **1. Proportion of funded projects addressing priority activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) as identified by the Habitat Joint Ventures and the Joint Venture Technical Committee.**

- ❖ Refers to the number of grant projects that address NAWMP and migratory bird conservation priorities.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: the following is a list of NAWMP priorities; grantees must reference and provide an explanation for which priority(ies) their project addresses.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan:

- i. Improve waterfowl reproductive success in mid-continental prairies.*
- ii. Continue to seek major advances in wildlife-friendly policy and legislation for agriculture, wetland protection, energy, transportation, water availability and climate change.*
- iii. Expand partnerships, particularly those organizations whose land management policies and practices can have considerable effect on waterfowl and wetland conservation.*
- iv. Continue strengthening the Plan's biological knowledge base.*
- v. Improve targeting of issues specific to priority species or species groups, such as diving ducks, sea ducks, over-abundant goose species and species of special concern.<sup>2</sup>*

---

<sup>1</sup> Environment Canada, "Performance Indicators" (2013-07-02): <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ecoaction/default.asp?lang=En&n=93C81A93-1>

<sup>2</sup> North American Waterfowl Management Plan, "North American Waterfowl Management Plan Value Proposition": [http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Value\\_Prop.pdf](http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Value_Prop.pdf).

NAWMP Revision 2012

- vi. Abundant and resilient waterfowl populations to support hunting and other uses without imperiling habitat.*
  - vii. Wetlands and related habitats sufficient to sustain waterfowl populations at desired levels, while providing places to recreate and ecological services that benefit society.*
  - viii. Growing numbers of waterfowl hunters, other conservationists, and citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands conservation.<sup>3</sup>*
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project design and objectives; information from subject expert involved in the project, etc.

**2. Land area conserved, enhanced or restored through WHC funded projects.**

- ❖ This Performance Indicator refers to the total land area put under stewardship by the funded project.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: indicate the total acres of habitat (wetland, upland, riparian, woodland, other habitat) that are involved in the project area, with a further breakdown of acres conserved, enhanced or restored.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: ground surveys, aerial surveys, maps of the project area, etc.

**DEFINITIONS**

Wetlands = land that is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water. I.e., swamps, bogs, marshes, shallow open waters, etc.

Uplands = land that is within 200 feet of the edge of riparian vegetation or habitat. Comprised of vegetation such as grasslands, woodlands plant species that provides shelter or forage.

Riparian = areas that border wetlands, lakes, streams or rivers that link the water to the land.

Woodland = low-density forest that forms open habitat. Supports shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses.

Other = use this “Other” category to report habitat types not included in the above list of definitions (i.e., estuary...).

Conserve = preventing the loss of resources through the protection of habitat; produces a gain in habitat acres. I.e., conservation easement, landowner agreement, land acquisition.

Enhance = manipulation of physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a habitat site to improve specific functions of the habitat. There is no gain of habitat acres. I.e., cattle exclusion fencing.

Restore = returning a degraded habitat to a healthy, self-sustaining condition that resembles its original state as much as possible. I.e., re-vegetation, construction of culverts, trash and debris removal from contaminated habitats.

<sup>3</sup> North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Canada, “NAWMP Revision 2012” (2013): <http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/nawmp-revision-2012/>

### 3. Number of participants and total participant person-days in on-the-ground wetland education and hunter education programs supported by WHC grants.

- ❖ On-the-ground education or participation refers to direct interventions or interactive programming. That is, the interventions or programming are being directly applied to participants or physical work being done on habitat.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Number of participants and total participant person-days for the project, program and/or event.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: event or program registration, attendance records, etc.

#### DEFINITIONS

*Participant = any person participating in an educational program, outreach event, or stewardship activities.*

*Participants could be landowners, volunteers, students, etc.*

*Participant person-days = the number participants involved in an educational program outreach event, or physical work being done on habitat multiplied by the number of days that they participated.*

*I.e., One hundred students involved in a three day program = three hundred participant person-days.*

### 4. NL Murre projects only: Number of participants and total participant person-days in on-the-ground programs specific to Murre conservation activities and management.

- ❖ On-the-ground conservation activities and management refers to direct interventions or interactive programming. That is, the interventions or programming are being directly applied to participants or physical work being done for conservation activities and management.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Number of participants and total participant person-days for the project, program and/or event.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: event or program registration, physical count, attendance records, etc.

**DEFINITIONS:** refer to #3 (above)

### 5. Funds leveraged by WHC funded projects.

- ❖ Refers to the total project funds raised by WHC funded projects (excluding funding from EC programs and WHC). WHC reviews the total project revenue for all projects and performs this calculation.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Total project revenue, including both cash and in-kind contributions, from all project partners.

- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project budget, letters confirming partner contributions, financial records, etc.

#### DEFINITION

*In-kind contribution = any non-cash contribution to the project that can be given a cash value (I.e., donated staff or volunteer time, equipment or machinery loaned for project use, donated advertising space, etc.)*

### 6. Voluntary preventative measures employed in funded projects.

- ❖ Reporting Requirement 1: Total land area (acres) put under stewardship by funded projects.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project design and accomplishments, ground surveys, aerial surveys, maps of the project area, etc.

#### DEFINITION

*Stewardship = Encompasses a wide range of voluntary actions taken by people to care for the environment. Activities that promote or directly result in sustainable land use for the benefit of populations of priority species and their habitat. Can include the direct conservation of wild species and their habitat or improving the quality of habitat through the mitigation of human impact. I.e., installing nest boxes, monitoring wildlife populations and protecting habitat from disturbances, community-based projects that restore riverbanks and prevent soil erosion, etc.*

- ❖ Reporting Requirement 2: Number of private landowners involved in funded projects.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project design and accomplishments, physical count, records, etc.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement 3: Total in-kind contributions to funded projects.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project budget, letters confirming in-kind contributions and valuation of contributions, records, etc.

**DEFINITIONS:** refer to #5 (above)

### 7. Number of partners involved in wildlife habitat conservation.

- ❖ WHC reviews project reports and tracks the average number of partners involved in funded projects.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Total number of partners involved in the project.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project records and budget, letters confirming partner contributions, financial records, etc.

**DEFINITION:**

*Partners = individuals or organizations contributing cash or in-kind resources to the project.*

**8. Innovative habitat conservation tools in funded projects.**

- ❖ WHC calculates the proportion of projects applying innovative habitat conservation tools, landscape practices, or protocols to protect, conserve or enhance wildlife habitat.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Specify and provide a description of all innovative habitat conservation tools, landscape practices or protocols employed in the project.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project design/methodology, project activities, research, etc.

**DEFINITIONS:**

*Innovative tools/practices/protocols:*

- *...use of science and/or best practices to develop and stimulate advancements in conservation efforts;*
- *...could be new approaches, techniques or technologies;*
- *...are essential to maximizing the effectiveness of conservation efforts and ensuring the success of conservation efforts as they continue into the future.*

*Examples:*

- *development of predictive species-habitat models for wetland-associated birds;*
- *trend-based waterbird monitoring programs;*
- *use of stable isotope assignment models to assign shot birds to colony of origin;*
- *strategic partnerships to leverage resources for greater conservation benefit;*
- *nest-box design improvements;*
- *cutting-edge educational tools and aids.*

**9. Funded projects showing 'evidence of acquisition' of expected knowledge and/or skills by the target group.**

- ❖ Reporting Requirement: No further reporting required by grantees. WHC calculates the total approved funding (\$) for Research projects that are supported by a Joint Venture.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: WHC collects this information from grant applications and reports.

**10. Status of habitat and migratory bird populations.**

- ❖ Cumulative number of habitat acres conserved, enhanced and restored through WHC funded projects over a 5 year period.

- ❖ Reporting Requirement: No additional reporting required from grantees. WHC collects this information (in #2) and tracks habitat acres conserved, enhanced and restored annually.
- ❖ Data Source / Collection: WHC collects this information from grantees' Final Project Reports.

**11. Project activities – Categorization.**

- ❖ Project activities should be generally sorted under the categories listed in the NAWMP Common Language Document, listed below (titled *A Common Language for Canadian NAWMP Habitat Joint Ventures Reference Document, July 9, 2103*).
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: WHC further categorizes the activities for efficient national data collection of NAWMP goals and objectives for tracking against long-term accomplishments.

**Common Language Programs associated with major activities under NAWCA**

**<sup>1</sup>Habitat Retention – Permanent:** Protection (or preservation) of functional waterfowl habitat and the provision of suitable habitat for other bird species in perpetuity.

*Includes: Conservation Encumbrance -Donated; Conservation Encumbrance-Paid; Crown Designation; Fee Simple Acquisition; Fee Simple Donation*

**<sup>2</sup>Habitat Retention – Medium Term (10-99 yrs):** Protection (or preservation) of functional waterfowl habitat and the provision of suitable habitat for other bird species from a period of 10 to 99 years.

*Includes: Conservation Encumbrance-Donated; Conservation Encumbrance-Paid; Lease; Conservation/Cooperative Land Use Agreements; Crown Agreements; Municipal/Industrial Agreements; Private Land Management*

**<sup>3</sup>Wetland Restoration:** Creation or improvement of wetland habitat (and the services it provides to waterfowl and other bird species).

*Includes: Agriculture BMP Implementation; Ecological Restoration; Hydrological Restoration; Nest Structures; Extension*

**<sup>4</sup>Upland Restoration:** Creation or improvement of upland habitat suitable for waterfowl habitat.

*Includes: Agriculture BMP Implementation; Ecological Restoration; Extension; Incentive; Nest Structures; Planted Nesting Cover; Private Land Management*

**<sup>5</sup>Management (Habitat Assets):** The maintenance of the waterfowl productivity of existing projects and the provision of suitable habitat for other bird species.

*Includes: Decommission Uplands; Decommission Wetlands; Engineered Wetlands; Natural Wetlands; Upland and Associated Wetlands; Upland Rebuild; Wetland Rebuild; Nest Structures*

**<sup>6</sup>Habitat Retention – Short Term (<10 yrs):** Protection (or preservation) of functional waterfowl habitat and the provision of suitable habitat for other bird species for a period less than 10 years.

*Includes: Lease; Conservation/Cooperative Land Use Agreements; Crown Agreements; Municipal/Industrial Agreements; Private Land Management; Extension*

**<sup>7</sup>Conservation Planning:** Planning and coordination of NAWMP conservation programs

*Includes: Planning Tools; Program Coordination*

**<sup>8</sup>Communication and Education:** Inform and educate the public and partners, to demonstrate leadership on issues which relate to government or industry policies, and to encourage new partnerships and funding opportunities. Specific activities are associated with the promotion of the NAWMP and the Joint Ventures and associated programs under this Initiative.

*Includes: Communication & Education. Outreach of Conservation Successes*

**<sup>9</sup>Land and Water Policy:** The creation or alteration of policies which effect land use or land use to more sustainable practices through providing science based arguments to support the value of proposed changes.

*Includes: none are NAWCA or Match Funds eligible*

**<sup>10</sup>Science:** Focuses on research, evaluation, monitoring, and inventory outcomes.

All activities with a research, evaluation, monitoring, and inventory outcome.

*Includes: Habitat Program Evaluation; Habitat/Landscape Inventory; Waterfowl/Wildlife Science*