

August 31, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA GRANT PROGRAM: CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is now accepting grant funding applications for projects that will be carried out during the 2017-2018 fiscal year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018).

Application information, including eligibility and project requirements, can be reviewed below or on the WHC website: <http://whc.org/conservation/conservations-grants/>.

The deadline to apply for 2017-2018 project funding is **5:00pm EDT on Tuesday, November 1, 2016.**

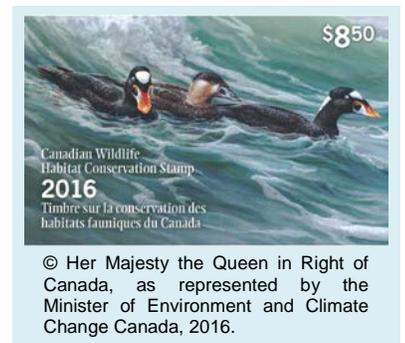
BACKGROUND

Since the establishment of its grant program in 1985, WHC has invested over \$50 million supporting more than 1,500 conservation projects across Canada. Working with multiple partners across the nation, WHC leverages over three times the amount invested for conservation work through this grant program (i.e., over \$150 million).

Funds invested to support the grant program come from the purchase of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (also known as the **Canadian Duck Stamp**). The Stamp, which validates the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit, is purchased primarily by waterfowl hunters. Proceeds from the Stamp are transferred to WHC for on-the-ground habitat conservation and stewardship efforts, through the support of the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Stamp and Limited Edition Print are also purchased by collectors and individuals interested in contributing to the conservation of wildlife habitat in Canada.

Wildlife Habitat Canada (www.whc.org) is a national, not-for-profit, non-governmental, charitable conservation organization that was established in 1984. WHC's objectives are to: 1) provide funding for wildlife conservation programs in Canada; 2) conserve, restore and enhance wildlife habitat; 3) foster coordination and leadership in the conservation community; and, 4) promote the conservation contributions of waterfowl hunters and encourage participation in waterfowl hunting.





WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Only Canadian recipients are eligible recipients and include: not-for-profit organizations; aboriginal organizations, associations and wildlife management boards; research, academic and educational institutions; for profit organizations such as small businesses, companies, corporations, and industry associations; local organizations such as community associations and groups, seniors' and youth groups, and service clubs; and, provincial, territorial, municipal and local governments and their agencies.

Ineligible recipients include, but are not limited to: international organizations or individuals; and, government employees, departments, agencies and crown corporations at the federal level.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

In recognition of the fact that the purchase of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp (**Canadian Duck Stamp**) by waterfowl hunters is the primary source of funding for WHC's grant program, within its available budget, WHC will primarily support projects involving the participation of multiple partners that:

- Support the priority activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), including the human dimensions goal.
- Support regional and local habitat projects of importance to other migratory game birds.
- Support the priority activities under the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund.

While WHC recognizes the importance of projects involving habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement for other wildlife (i.e., Other than migratory game birds) and fish, these types of projects are not eligible for funding consideration under the Contribution Agreement between Environment and Climate Change Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

To be considered for grant funding, the project:

- proponent must ensure that project implementation complies with all relevant legislation, regulations, licenses, permits, etc.
- must be carried out within the 2017-2018 fiscal year; that is, between April 1, 2017 – March 31, 2018. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent within the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
- must clearly demonstrate a minimum 1:1 funding match ratio^{*} in 2017-2018 fiscal year (i.e., WHC contributions cannot exceed 50% of the Project Revenue). **Funding from Government of Canada programs cannot be considered as match.*
- must include letters confirming cash and in-kind contributions to the project, signed by the supporting partner. These letters must accompany the submission of the grant application form. If specific funding sources are anticipated but not confirmed, this should be clearly noted in the Financial Summary section of the grant application form.
- must not be seeking WHC grant funds 1) for expenditures directly related to the acquisition of land or an interest in land, including a lease, conservation easement or conservation covenant; or, 2) as a contribution to an endowment fund. These activities are not eligible for grant funding under the Contribution Agreement between Environment and Climate Change Canada and Wildlife Habitat Canada and must be funded by another revenue source.



OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Other requirements taken into account by the WHC Board of Directors when reviewing grant funding applications include:

- Projects that contribute to an equitable geographic distribution of WHC support across Canada.
- The involvement of multiple funding partners.
- Assurance that WHC funds will be used for project related activity within the specified fiscal year. WHC cannot commit grant funding support to multi-year projects.
- No single partner will receive more than 20% of the total available WHC grant funding in a given year.
- Projects that support the waterfowl hunting community's role and contribution to wildlife and habitat conservation.
- Projects that promote and advocate the importance of wildlife habitat in Canada.
- Projects with a lasting and long-term conservation impact.
- Research project applications must include a letter of support from the scientific or technical committee of the associated North American Waterfowl Management Plan Habitat (or Species) Joint Venture in Canada.

GRANT CATEGORIES

The WHC Grant Program has four categories of funding, each of which is directed to projects that support different areas of conservation. There is a separate grant application form for each grant type.

1. Habitat Conservation Grants

Projects under this category focus on direct, on-the-ground activities that:

- address North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) conservation priorities, as outlined in the Habitat Joint Venture Implementation Plans, including conservation, restoration, protection and enhancement of habitat in priority areas; or
- support habitat conservation for other important migratory game birds.

Examples of project activities that would fall under this grant category:

- *creation, restoration or enhancement of wetland habitat;*
- *natural vegetation planting;*
- *construction and installation of Hen Houses or nest boxes;*
- *installation of livestock exclusion fencing;*
- *removal of invasive species;*
- *wetland inventory mapping; ...etc.*

NOTE: For infrastructure repair / re-build projects (e.g., water level control structure repairs or replacement), WHC will consider projects that:

- **increase wetland acres** and/or **improve the ecological integrity** of affected acres; and,
- address **long term maintenance needs** for infrastructure (which do not rely on any future WHC funding).

2. Research Grants

Projects under this category focus on furthering the understanding of waterfowl and/or habitat conservation or the NAWMP human dimensions component:

- as outlined in the NAWMP and Habitat/Species Joint Venture Implementation Plans, including research for conservation, restoration, protection and enhancement of habitat in priority areas; or
- support habitat conservation for other important migratory game birds.

Examples of research projects that have received grant funding in the past:

- *Long Point Waterfowl's Lake St. Clair Initiative: Habitat Selection and Survival of American Black Ducks and Mallards during Autumn-Winter;*
- *Assessing the ecological influences on the efficacy of benthic barriers to control yellow flag iris in high priority waterfowl habitats across British Columbia;*
- *Understanding the dynamics of people's interactions with waterfowl: Assessing hunter's preferences for waterfowl management in Canada.*

NOTE: To be considered for funding, Research projects require a **letter of support from the scientific or technical committee** of the associated North American Waterfowl Management Plan Habitat (or Species) Joint Venture in Canada. This letter of support must be attached to the application form when it is submitted to WHC.

3. Conservation Networking Grants

Projects under this category address the NAWMP goals and priorities of the human dimensions component, *“Growing numbers of waterfowl hunters, other conservationists and citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands habitat conservation.”* Includes:

- wetland educational programs/workshops;
- waterfowl hunter education and/or recruitment programs/workshops;
- projects that advance regional or national stewardship.

Examples of project activities that would fall under this category:

- *Provincial Hunting Day activities promoting waterfowl hunting and wetland conservation;*
- *Mentored waterfowl hunts / introduction to waterfowl hunting;*
- *Public engagement in conservation activities / planning;...etc.*

NOTE: To be considered for funding, Networking projects must:

- clearly outline the **curriculum** of the program; and,
- include a **follow up** component (planned future activities) to demonstrate how the benefits of the program will be sustained in future years and to evaluate the success of the program (e.g., are new hunters continuing to actively hunt after the program?).

4. Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund Grants

Projects under this category support Murre conservation activities and management, including those that:

- Assess Murre breeding populations, productivity, survival, harvests and other mortality factors;
- Facilitate Murre hunting stewardship and wildlife conservation to ensure that the Murre populations are sustained; or
- Involve other Murre habitat conservation activities and events.

NOTE: grant applications under this category are reviewed by the NL Murre Conservation Fund Steering Committee, made up of representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Bird Studies Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Department of Environment and Conservation) and Wildlife Habitat Canada.



GRANT APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Application Process

There are four grant application forms that correspond to each grant category. The forms can be viewed and downloaded from Wildlife Habitat Canada's website: <http://whc.org/application-information/>.

Please conduct a thorough review of the grant categories and application forms. It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine and pursue the grant category that is best suited for their project. If you are unsure as to which grant category your project falls under, please contact the Grants Administrator.

Before developing your grant application:

- please review the draft WHC Letter of Agreement that is available at: <http://whc.org/application-information/>. Successful proponents will be expected, as a requirement for grant eligibility, to enter into an agreement substantially in accordance with this.
If you are applying for a grant as part of an academic institution, such as a college or university, please ensure the appropriate administrative office reviews this agreement prior to submitting your application.
- please review the WHC Reporting Requirements on Performance Indicators: <http://whc.org/application-information/>. Environment Canada requires that all WHC grant applicants be advised of the reporting requirements for projects that are approved for funding. These requirements link directly to WHC's performance indicators, which measure the effectiveness of the competitive grant program.
- we strongly recommend that you review the information and implementation plans available for the Habitat or Species Joint Venture that applies to your project/project location (information at: <http://whc.org/project-reporting-2/>).

Completed grant application forms for 2017-2018 should be submitted electronically to Julia Thompson (jthompson@whc.org) in Microsoft Word format. The deadline for the submission of grant funding applications is **5:00 pm EDT on Tuesday, November 1, 2016**.

Grant Funding Selection Process

Grant applications submitted by the November 2016 deadline will be reviewed by the Wildlife Habitat Canada Board of Directors at their January meeting. Applicants will subsequently be advised of the Board's funding decisions prior to the start of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (i.e., prior to April 1, 2017).

Grant applications received by Wildlife Habitat Canada are reviewed on their own merit annually. Please note that receiving funding one year does not guarantee subsequent funding.

Proponents with projects approved for WHC funding will receive a 2017-2018 funding agreement ("Letter of Agreement") for signature. WHC funding is subject to projects meeting the conditions and requirements set out in the Letter of Agreement.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional information on Wildlife Habitat Canada and its programs can be found at www.whc.org.

If you require any further information, or assistance in completing your application, please contact Julia Thompson, Grants Administrator/Executive Assistant, by email (jthompson@whc.org) or by phone (toll-free: 1-800-669-7919 x 266).