

July 20, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is now accepting grant funding applications for projects that will begin in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. *These projects will begin on April 1, 2019 and end on March 31, 2020.*

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

The deadline to apply for 2019-2020 project funding is **5:00pm EDT on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.**



BACKGROUND

Since the establishment of its grant program in 1985, WHC has invested over \$55 million supporting more than 1,500 conservation projects across Canada. Working with multiple partners across the nation, WHC has leveraged over \$150 million for conservation work through this grant program.

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.



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WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Only Canadian residents are eligible recipients and include: not-for-profit organizations; indigenous 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 conservation 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 conservation and management activities under the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund.

To be considered for grant funding, the project:

- proponent must ensure that project implementation complies with all relevant legislation, regulations, licenses, permits, etc.
- projects must be carried out between April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent within the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- must clearly demonstrate a minimum 1:1 funding match ratio* in the 2019-2020 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 activities within the specified fiscal timeframe.
- 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.

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 in priority areas or the NAWMP human dimensions component. *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.

NOTE: To be considered for funding, Research projects applying for a grant through an academic institution, such as a college or university, must:

- 1) contact WHC **before** submitting the application if the academic institution requires an overhead expense be charged against the requested WHC grant funds;
- 2) ensure that the appropriate academic institution administrative office has reviewed the draft WHC Letter of Agreement **before** the application is submitted. If the grant application is successful, the academic institution will be expected to enter into an agreement substantially in accordance with the draft, as a requirement of grant eligibility; and,
- 3) provide a letter from the administrative office confirming that the draft WHC Letter of Agreement has been reviewed, including any comments or changes that may need to be considered if the grant application is successful. This letter 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:

- *Promoting waterfowl hunting and wetland conservation at events (e.g., Provincial Hunting Days);*
- *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 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 Bird Studies Canada, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (Department of Environment and Conservation), and Wildlife Habitat Canada. A representative from the Atlantic Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service (Department of Environment and Climate Change) will also provide technical information for the committee.

NOTE: To be considered for funding, NL Murre Conservation Fund projects applying for a grant through an academic institution, such as a college or university, must:

- 1) contact WHC **before** submitting the application if the academic institution requires an overhead expense be charged against the requested NL Murre Conservation Fund grant funds.
- 2) ensure that the appropriate academic institution administrative office has reviewed the draft WHC Letter of Agreement **before** the application is submitted. If the grant application is successful, the academic institution will be expected to enter into an agreement substantially in accordance with the draft, as a requirement of grant eligibility; and,
- 3) provide a letter from the administrative office confirming that the draft WHC Letter of Agreement has been reviewed, including any comments or changes that may need to be considered if the grant application is successful. This letter must be attached to the application form when it is submitted to WHC.



GRANT APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

Application Process

Grant application forms can be viewed and downloaded from Wildlife Habitat Canada's website:

<https://whc.org/grants/>.

Please conduct a thorough review of the grant categories. 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 Program Manager.

Before developing your grant application:

- Please review the draft WHC Letter of Agreement that is available at: <https://whc.org/grants/> (*Application Process* → *Important Reference Documents*). 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. You will be required to submit a letter signed by the administrative office confirming that the draft WHC Letter of Agreement has been reviewed, which should include any comments or changes that may need to be considered if the grant application is successful.

- If the academic institution through which you are applying requires an overhead expense be charged against the requested WHC grant funds, you must contact WHC in advance of submitting the application.
- Please review the Grant Program Guidance Document for reporting requirements on Performance Indicators: <https://whc.org/grants/> (*Application Process* → *Important Reference Documents*). Environment and Climate Change 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://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/publications/>).

The deadline for the submission of grant funding applications is
5:00 pm EDT on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

NEW! Completed grant application forms for 2019-2020 should be submitted electronically via Wildlife Habitat Canada's website at www.whc.org/grants-form in Microsoft Word format. When you are ready to submit your completed application, visit the application submission page, fill out the required fields, and upload your documents.

Grant Funding Selection Process

Grant applications submitted by the October 2018 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 2019-2020 fiscal year (i.e., prior to April 1, 2019).

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 2019-2020 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, Program Manager, by email (grants@whc.org) or by phone (toll-free: 1-800-669-7919 x 266).