

WILDLIFE HABITAT CANADA

Grant Program Guidance Document



2019 Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print image, "Blue-Canvasback" by Claude Thivierge.

As required by the **Contribution Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**, 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."¹

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 ECCC requires WHC to inform funding recipients on collecting and reporting on data associated with WHC's performance indicators. Please refer to the information below.

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

- 1. Networking Grants provided to eligible recipients to advance stewardship, including for wetland education programs and waterfowl hunter education programs.**
 - ❖ Funding allocation.
- 2. Habitat Grants provided to eligible recipients for research and conservation, restoration, protection and enhancement of habitat in priority areas.**
 - ❖ Funding allocation.
- 3. NL Murre Conservation Fund Grants provided to eligible recipients.**
 - ❖ Funding allocation.
- 4. Projects that contribute to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) are implemented.**
 - ❖ Percentage of funded projects addressing priority activities under NAWMP.
 - ❖ Number of projects addressing NAWMP 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.

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP or ‘the Plan’) is an international partnership to conserve abundant and resilient waterfowl populations and sustainable landscapes, through management decisions based on strong biological foundations. The plan engages the community of users and supporters committed to conservation and valuing waterfowl.

Goal 1: Abundant and resilient waterfowl populations to support hunting and other uses without imperiling habitat.

Goal 2: Wetlands and related habitat sufficient to sustain waterfowl populations at desired levels, while providing places to recreate and ecological services that benefit society.

Goal 3: Growing numbers of waterfowl hunters, other conservationists and citizens who enjoy and actively support waterfowl and wetlands habitat conservation.²

- ❖ Data Source / Collection: project design and objectives; information from subject expert involved in the project, etc.

5. Projects are implemented and WHC funding is leveraged.

- ❖ Number of projects funded.
- ❖ Matching funds leveraged by grantees.
- ❖ Ratio of matching funds leveraged by grantees.

Refers to the total project funds raised by WHC-funded projects (excluding funding from Government of Canada programs and WHC). WHC reviews the total project revenue for all projects and performs this calculation.

² North American Waterfowl Management Plan, “What is NAWMP?” <http://nawmp.wetlandnetwork.ca/what-is-nawmp/>

- ❖ **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. Waterfowl and other priority habitats are protected, conserved and restored.

- ❖ Land protected, conserved and restored through 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.

7. Canadians participate in projects funded by WHC's Grant Program.

- ❖ Number of participants in projects supported by the WHC Grant program.
- ❖ Reporting Requirement: Number of participants 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.

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.