



STAMP GUIDELINES

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STAMP PROGRAM

Wildlife Habitat Canada invests funds from the sale of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print (CWHS) program to fund important and relevant conservation projects all over Canada.

What's more, our matching funds component ensures that every dollar WHC invests is met with additional non-federal government backing. As a result, the projects we support are crucial to Canadian conservation initiatives and have provided roughly \$150 million towards the cause.

The WHC mandate is to support applications that:

- are relevant under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP);
- positively impact regional and local habitats of other migratory game birds;
- consider the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund.

WHC recognizes the importance of projects involving habitat conservation, restoration and enhancement for other wildlife (i.e. other than migratory game birds) and fish; however, 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 learn more about achievements under the program, please visit [WHC's website](#).

WILDILFE HABITAT CANADA CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kylie Graham
Title: Project Manager
Email: kgraham@whc.org

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Wildlife Habitat Canada is a national, not for-profit, non-governmental, charitable conservation organization that was established in 1984. The Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp was introduced in 1985 as a way to raise funds for Canadian conservation.

Where does this money for conservation come from?

Through a Contribution Agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada, the money generated from the Stamp provides funds for important conservation work through WHC's grant program.

The Conservation Stamp = Investment in Conservation

The price of the Conservation Stamp, currently \$8.50, has not changed since 1991. As a result, the Conservation Stamp's purchasing power has been greatly diminished.

Environment and Climate Change Canada put a proposal to increase the price of the Stamp out for public consultation in Spring 2018. The process has been put on hold and it is still unknown as to when the Minister of Environment and Climate Change will make a decision on the proposed Stamp increase. WHC continues to advocate for an increase to the price of the Conservation Stamp, which will provide much-needed, additional funds to the important conservation efforts being undertaken across Canada.

We support conservation initiatives for wildlife and their habitats. Our grant program has been providing funds that support habitat restoration, enhancement and protection all over Canada since 1985.

Our mandate is to provide financial assistance to conservation projects and initiatives related to waterfowl and migratory birds' management based on our agreement with Environment and Climate Change Canada.

We are members of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and strive to improve and enhance the state of migratory birds and their habitats in Canada.

As members of various international and national conservation committees and councils, our aim is to impact the decisions that directly affect biodiversity in wildlife and habitats as part of the solutions to climate change.

Every year, we receive grant requests that more than double the amount available through the Stamp grant program

HOW TO APPLY

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that they have read, acknowledge and understand the requirements of the STAMP Program.

Application Forms must be completed and submitted online. In order to be considered, completed Application Forms and required documentation are to be submitted by the established deadline (October). Please see section [B-2](#) for further details on the application process and how Application Forms will be reviewed.

To apply for funding under the STAMP program, [please follow the link](#).

Note:

- If there is a fundamental change to the project at any time, Applicants must notify WHC immediately.
- If an Applicant fails to upload the correct, requested documentation in the acceptable format with their Application Form submission, the application may be deemed incomplete and disqualified from funding consideration.

- Each submitted application is considered as a stand-alone application. Applicants submitting more than one application must ensure that each individual application form includes all of the required documentation requested. WHC will not consider any documents shared via another application form. Applications and associated materials are to be submitted **only** on the WHC Grant Portal.

BEFORE PREPARING AN APPLICATION:

- 1) Read, understand and acknowledge the program guidelines.
- 2) Review and understand the reporting requirements of the program.
- 3) Review the Letter of Agreement (LOA) – all awardees under the WHC STAMP program must be willing to sign and adhere to the terms and conditions of the LOA.
- 4) Ensure your organization and project are eligible, according to the parameters set out in this document.
- 5) Explore your applicable Habitat or Species Joint Ventures

FUNDING

WHC reserves the right to award partial funding to eligible applicant organizations.

Please note that:

- STAMP funds may be combined with other Canadian federal funds on the same project, as long as funds go towards unique expenditures;
- other Canadian federal funds cannot be used as matching funds for STAMP funds; and,
- **acres secured must count towards the expected results of the STAMP program only;** acres secured cannot be counted towards the expected results of multiple Canadian federal funding programs.

Select eligible projects that are not initially approved for funds will be placed on a “waiting list,” and the Applicant will be notified if/when additional funds become available

In the event that STAMP funds are returned to the Program, the Letter of Agreement will be nullified and WHC will begin the process of re-allocating the returned funds to eligible projects on the “waiting list” before the end of the program year. Applicants with projects included on the “waiting list” will be contacted if funds become available for their project.

Ineligible Expenses:

- as a contribution to an endowment fund; or,
- for expenditures directly related to the acquisition of land or an interest in land, including a lease, conservation easement or conservation covenant.

NOTE: All reporting requirements must be submitted to WHC via the online platform. Funding will only be released once WHC successfully receives, reviews and approves all reporting and delivery requirements.

It is the full responsibility of the Applicant to understand and adhere to the rules and requirements involved under the STAMP program.

SECTION A – STAMP PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

A-1: Program Deadlines

- a) ***Application Form Deadline:*** Application Forms will be accepted between **July and October of each grant year** for projects with eligible expenditures incurred between the upcoming fiscal.
- Example: Projects to be delivered in FY 2023-2024 need to submit an application during the application period through July-October 2022.

Important Note: The application form, submission process and program reporting must be completed via the online platform. Any submissions/required documents sent via email **WILL NOT BE** accepted.

- b) ***Project Finalization Deadline:*** The deadline for finalizing WHC project deliverables and submitting all final documentation to receive the final installment will fall in **March of the program year**. Dates will be set on an annual basis and outlined in the Letter of Agreement. **Receipt of final deliverables/documents by WHC after this deadline may result in Applicants forfeiting the final installment or possibly the entire awarded amount.**

A-2: Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible to apply to the STAMP Program, Applicants must meet the criteria below:

- Canadian Residents;
- 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;
- Provincial, territorial, municipal, and local governments and their agencies.

Ineligible Recipients of the Grant Program include but are not limited to:

- International organizations or individuals;
- Federal level organizations or individuals: Government employees, departments, agencies, and crown corporations.

Environment and Climate Change Canada requires that all WHC **grant applicants be advised of the reporting requirements prior to submitting an application**. Our competitive grant program measures project results against established performance indicators to evaluate the

effectiveness of the program. See the Grant Program Guidance Document [on the WHC website](#). See further details on reporting requirements below in **section A-5**.

Successful proponents are **expected to enter into a signed agreement with WHC regarding the exchange of funds**. All applicants are expected to review the draft Letter of Agreement prior to preparing and submitting an application.

A-3: Project Eligibility

a) Project Eligibility Overview

- Applicants are permitted to submit one project per Application Form with a funding ask between \$1,000 and \$150,000.
- Eligible projects expenditures must have been incurred between **April 1 and March 31 of the applicable fiscal year**.
- Project implementation must comply with all relevant legislation, regulations, licenses, permits, etc.
- **One-year projects** must be carried out between April 1st of the granting year and March 31st of the subsequent year. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent within the designated fiscal year.
- A minimum 1:1 funding match ratio* must clearly be demonstrated in the application. WHC contributions cannot exceed 50% of the project costs.

*Please note that funding from Government of Canada programs cannot be considered as match.

Cash and in-kind contributions may be confirmed or anticipated. Signed letters from confirmed supporting partners should accompany the grant application form. Should funding sources be anticipated but not confirmed at the time of application, please indicate clearly in the Financial Summary section of the grant application form.

These letters must accompany the submission of the grant application form.

Anticipated funding sources that are not yet confirmed should be **clearly identified in the Financial Summary** section of the grant application form.

The following **activities are not eligible for grant funding** from WHC under the STAMP:

- Expenditures directly related to the acquisition of land or an interest in land, including a lease, conservation easement or conservation covenant;
- A contribution to an endowment fund.

b) Project Definitions by Category

b.1) Habitat Conservation Project Definition:

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

- Address the 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/ for priority species; or,
- Support habitat conservation for other important migratory game birds.

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

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

b.2) Conservation Networking Project Definition:

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 and workshops;
- Waterfowl hunter education and/or recruitment programs/workshops; web-based conservation education programming/videos;
- Projects that advance regional or national stewardship.

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?).

b.3) Research Project Definition:

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

NOTE: To be considered for funding, Research projects require a letter of support, attached at application submission, from the scientific or technical committee of the associated North American Waterfowl Management Plan Habitat (or Species) Joint Venture in Canada.

b.3.1) Academic Institutions

If applying for a grant through an academic institution, such as a college or university, the Applicant must:

- Contact WHC before submitting the application if the academic institution requires an overhead expense be charged against the requested WHC grant funds;
 - Note that no more than 15% of approved WHC funds can be allotted to overhead fees.
- 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,
- Provide a letter at application submission, 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.

b.4) Newfoundland Murre Conservation Fund Project Definition:

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.

Applications submitted under this category are reviewed by the NL Murre Conservation Fund Steering Committee, made up of representatives from Birds 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) also provides technical information for the committee.

NOTE: If applying through an academic institution, such as a college or university, the Applicant must meet the requirements listed on page 12 of the Grant Program Information Document, under "[Academic Institutions](#)" for the Research grant category.

IAS) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Projects Definition and Eligibility:

The WHC Board of Directors recognizes that Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are an important habitat issue; however, in acknowledgement of the reduction in grant funding available through the Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative, the scope of IAS projects that will be considered has been narrowed.

To be eligible for funding, projects with IAS components must clearly demonstrate activities based on the guidelines provided in the table below. The focus for funding will be on education and awareness, research and long-term, best practice eradication of IAS, for the future of conservation practices for wetlands / waterfowl / habitat.

| Project Type | Education and/or Awareness* | Demo Site* | Research* | Initial Control* | Maintenance* |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| IAS as Main Focus | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| IAS is Secondary | Yes | No | Yes | No | No |

*Education/awareness projects such as workshops, seminars, and public outreach initiatives.

*Demo site includes projects such as implementation of proven scientific methods in a practical setting.

*Research projects that promote new and innovative scientific methods to further knowledge on IAS.

*Initial Control projects such as early action into the invasive cycle for new found IAS sites.

*Maintenance projects such as maintaining the reduction of existing levels of IAS, without eradication in mind.

DE) Projects Supporting Diversity Definition and Eligibility:

Embracing diversity, for both ecosystems and Canadian organizations, is a core value at Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC). As we recognize the need for increased inclusion and diversity in all aspects of wildlife conservation and management, WHC is committed to supporting projects from groups with diverse and inclusive goals and objectives for the grant program.

Eligibility Requirements for these projects:

- Must be carried out between April 1 – March 31. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent within the applicable fiscal year.
- Must have clear milestones & deliverables in both years and a minimum of 1:1 match.
- Projects are required to be related to NAWMP (wetlands, waterfowl and migratory game birds) and must fall within the scope of our regularly scheduled grant programming (See Grant Categories Page 7 - 10 for more details)
- Within the Application, self-identify and demonstrate clearly how your organization or project will be providing improvements to diversity, equity and inclusion within the community of Canada.

For more information on Diversity and Inclusion, please visit www.ccdi.ca

c) **Minimum Amount of STAMP Funds Available per Project:**

Applicants may request a minimum of \$1,000.00 in STAMP funds per project, therefore, per Application.

d) **Maximum Amount of STAMP Funds Available per Project:**

Applicants may request up to a maximum of \$150,000.00 in STAMP funds per program year.

e) **Required Matching Funds for Each Project:**

The STAMP is a matching funds program, with a required match ratio of a **minimum 1:1**. This means that for every \$1 of Program funds awarded, a minimum of \$1 in matching funds from sources other than Canadian federal government investments must also be contributed.

Matching funds may include both cash and in-kind contributions.

In-kind match refers to the cash-equivalent funding in the form of a donation (donated land, products or donated services) for which no cash is exchanged but is essential to the project and that would have to be purchased on the open market, or through negotiation with the provider, if it were not provided.

As part of the STAMP reporting requirements, all volunteer involvement is to be reported to WHC. This should be indicated on the Activity Table that will be provided as part of the Final Reporting process for awarded projects.

The definition of a volunteer is a person who works for an organization without being paid, a person who voluntarily offers themselves for a service or undertaking, or a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

NOTE: Full-time or part-time staff cannot donate their time to a project as in-kind match; however, staff time can be applied as cash match in cases where this cost is covered by other non-STAMP funds.

f) **Wildlife Habitat Canada Recognition and Communications Requirements:**

Awardees **will undertake communications** activities and outreach that will highlight and promote achievements under the Program. These communication activities must be conducted in compliance with the following Public Acknowledgement requirements:

* Over the course of the project agreement, **a minimum of 2 social media posts where WHC linkage are required, per project.**

Communications Activities and Requirements:

- **Digital Promotion / Social Media:** WHC may repost social media messages concerning STAMP projects that were originally posted on the Awardee's social media platforms. The Awardee will reciprocate, as appropriate, for WHC social media messages regarding the STAMP program.

- **Logo/Templates:** WHC shall provide Awardees with the necessary templates (if applicable) and/or electronic files (logos) and/or acknowledgement statements to be used.
- **WHC Approval of Published Communications:** The Awardee shall provide WHC with final copies of any document or material (excluding social media posts) utilizing the WHC logo, prior to printing or distribution, for WHC approval of the use of said logos and/or acknowledgement statements.
- **Property Photos:** The Awardee will be required to provide at least two high quality images of the Project, for possible use in WHC social media and other promotional materials. The Awardee will be required to provide authorization to WHC for the use of the image(s). *In cases of an anticipated confidentiality/privacy conflict with this requirement, please contact WHC.*
- **Project Overview:** The Awardee will be required to provide a short 3-4 sentence overview, within the Final Report, of the project's accomplishments throughout the grant year. This may be used for communications and promotional activities.

A-4: Expense Eligibility

STAMP funds can only be used to fund in-year eligible expenditures directly associated with the approved project. [Chart 1 - Eligibility of Expenses under the STAMP Program](#) outlines eligible expenses and eligible matching funds.

Eligible project expenses will be those that have been **incurred in the applicable fiscal year.**

STAMP funds cannot be used to cover rebatable/refundable taxes.

Charging Staff Time: Staff time AND/OR consultant time that is directly related to the project are eligible expenses, including all Staff time necessary for planning, negotiating, coordinating, managing and completing the project.

As per normal business practice, Awardees are expected to keep appropriate records, invoices and supporting documentation of all expenditures under the STAMP program in anticipation of financial project audit. Awardees are also expected to keep records and supporting documentation pertaining to staff time expensed under the STAMP program.

WHC reserves the right to conduct random financial project audits.

A-5: Reporting Requirements:

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. 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.

Awardees are to report on:

- Project purpose
- Project location
- NAWMP/Joint Venture information

- Waterfowl Habitat
- Estimated Priority Species
- Hunter oriented questions
- Estimated Acres – confirmed acres (final reporting)
- Participant participation
- Landowner participation
- Curriculum of Educational programming
- Stewardship opportunities

Reporting Mechanism (completed at Interim and Final Reporting):

- Activity Table
 - Confirmed reported acres
 - Attendance records
 - Event and/or Program Registration records
 - Stewardship outcomes
- Budget
 - Total Project Revenue, including both In-Kind and Cash contributions, from all project partners and letters confirming partner contributions, where applicable
 - Final detailed costs associated with use of WHC Funds

Reporting Deliverables: (see Chart 2 for more details)

- Activity Table
- Budget Table
- Interim Reporting Template
- Final Report Template

Chart 1 – Expense Eligibility under the STAMP Program

Please note that this chart includes all high-level categories of eligible expenses. Some examples have been provided to help identify eligible expenses under listed categories. Please note that bulleted examples are not an exhaustive list.

- **Eligible expenses** are those directly related to the project that have been incurred between April 1 to March 31 of the applicable year.
- STAMP funds cannot be used to cover rebatable/refundable taxes.

| Expenditures | Is the expense eligible to receive STAMP program funds? | Is the expense eligible to include as Matching Funds (Cash)? | Is the expense eligible to include as Matching Funds (<u>In-Kind</u>)? |
|---|--|---|---|
| Purchase Price / Cost of Land or Conservation Agreement | X | ✓ | X |
| Donated value of Land or Conservation Agreement | X | X | ✓ |
| Stewardship Endowment Fund | X | ✓ | X |
| Fundraising Costs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Travel – travel expenditures that are necessary to the successful completion of the project. To be eligible, travel must take place by the least expensive means, and rates may not exceed the maximum allowances permitted by the National Joint Council Directive : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilometric rates (only applicable to personal-vehicle travel away from the office, not for daily commuting) • Accommodation and meal allowances • Air travel for trips fewer than nine consecutive hours are reimbursed at the economy rate. • The standard accommodation is a basic room, in a safe environment and conveniently located. The Applicant should always seek the most reasonable rate. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Salaries and wages - including all existing benefits for employees and contract staff, and mandatory employment-related expenditures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes all Staff time necessary for planning, negotiating, managing, coordinating and completing the project. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Contractors - costs associated with contractors engaged to undertake the project activities, such as general labourers, or researchers. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Materials and supplies expenditures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes utilities, phone, internet, etc. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Equipment rentals | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Vehicle rental, lease and operation expenditures | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lease of office space – the portion of the cost to lease office space that may be requested in LTCF funds is calculated as 5% of the organization’s occupancy cost, as | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| reported on line 4850 of the most recent T4033 - CRA Registered Charity Information Return, to a maximum of \$3,000. | | | |
| Communication and printing, production, and distribution expenditures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and installation of property-based program recognition sign(s). • Property-based communication costs or alternative project-specific funding recognition and communication or event expenses. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Management and professional service expenditures - costs associated with management and professional services required to support a project, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting charges • Monitoring and translation (internal) charges • Official languages translation charges • Legal fees/charges, title search fees, registration fees, and severance/subdivision fees required to secure the project. • Securement-related consultant costs necessary to negotiate the project, or in the case of Conservation Agreements, drafting or Baseline Documentation Report (BDR) and the Conservation Agreement. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Costs associated with eligible land planning, Land Securement and stewardship initiatives and Projects such as appraisals, surveys, baseline documentation, land transfer tax. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraisal Costs • Survey Costs (if applicable) • Real Estate Broker Fees • Environmental Assessments (if applicable) • Stewardship Implementation Actions, which includes: i) conducting biological inventories to inform the development of the property management plans; ii) property management plan writing and review; iii) implementing property management actions. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Land Transfer Tax (LTT) and Sales Tax (excluding rebatable portion) | X | X | X |
| Property Tax (only when paid as part of closing) | X | X | X |
| Cost of Independent Financial Project Audit – <u>should NOT be included in project budget</u> Note: if WHC decides it is necessary to request an audit from the partner organization, it will be at the expense of WHC. | X | X | X |

A-5: Additional Requirements and Expectations under the STAMP Program

If successful Applicants choose to accept STAMP funds, the following describes the expectations and requirements under the STAMP program:

a) WHC Letter of Agreement for Funding:

Applicants must be prepared to sign a legal agreement (the "[STAMP Letter of Agreement](#)") with WHC.

Important Note: Applicants must review the [STAMP – Letter of Agreement](#) template **before submitting an Application Form**, as the terms of the agreement as presented in the template are not open for negotiation, with the only exception being minor modification.

b) Financial Reporting:

Applicants must provide a completed final budget report no later than mid-March in the applicable year. This final budget report must demonstrate the following:

- a minimum 1:1 match ratio;
- a list of all eligible expenditures by expense category; and,
- a breakdown of expenses applied to the STAMP funds vs. those covered by matching funds (cash vs. in-kind).

Final installment will be issued by WHC, following WHC's receipt and approval of all final reporting documentation.

SECTION B – APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCEDURES

B-1: Application Form Requirements

a) How many Application Forms can I submit?

Applicants are only permitted to submit one project per Application Form, **but may submit multiple Application Forms (projects) for a total ask of \$150,000**. If planning to submit more than 3 applications, please contact Kylie Graham, Project Manager at kgraham@whc.org to discuss prior to application.

b) How many projects can be submitted in a single Application Form?

Each Application Form represents one project.

c) How do I submit the Application Form?

Application Forms must be completed and submitted [online](#). Applicants will be prompted first to create a username and login password, and the Application Form itself can be saved at any point in time during the completion of the form. If an Applicant has applied to previous program years of the STAMP Program, the same username and password can be used to complete the Application Form.

NOTE: Any Application Forms submitted to WHC staff by email or mail will not be considered.

All reporting documentation **MUST** be uploaded to the application account throughout the duration of the project.

d) **What documentation will be required as part of a complete Application Form?**

The list of documentation required in the Application Form is listed under [Chart 2: Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments](#).

e) **How do I know if my Application Form was successfully submitted online to WHC?**

Applicants will receive an automated email when the Application Form has been submitted successfully.

B-2: Evaluation of the Application Form

a) **How and when will my Application Form be reviewed?**

Grant applications submitted by the October deadline will be reviewed by WHC Staff for eligibility requirements. As well as a review panel made up of technical and professional subject matter experts that then will make recommendations to the Wildlife Habitat Board of Directors in late January.

Applicants will subsequently be advised of the Board's funding decision prior to the start of the fiscal year (i.e. prior to April). Grant applications received by WHC 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 funding agreement ("Letter of Agreement") for signature. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Letter of Agreement template](#) in the application stage, as no changes will be made to this document. WHC funding is subject to projects meeting the conditions and requirements set out in the Letter of Agreement.

NOTE: It is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure the submission of a complete Application Form, including all of the correct, requested documentation in an acceptable format.

b) **Who will evaluate my Application Form?**

Applications are reviewed by WHC staff for eligibility and completeness. If deemed eligible and complete the application is then evaluated by an External Review Panel. The External Review Panel evaluates Application Forms and provides the results for WHC's consideration. WHC then presents applications recommended for funding to the WHC BOD for final funding decision.

c) **How will my Application Form be evaluated?**

Eligible applications will be evaluated on the relative strengths of the conservation criteria. If the Application Form does not convey competitive conservation value, WHC reserves the right to reject the project. For the complete evaluation and breakdown, please refer to the [STAMP Application Review Criteria](#).

In recognition of the fact that the purchase of the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation 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; and,
- Support the priority conservation and management activities under the
- Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund.

Other items taken into account by the WHC Board of Directors:

- 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.
- 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.

B-3: Award/Rejection Letters

a) **When can I expect to receive an award/rejection letter?**

It is anticipated that award/rejection letters will be distributed in February of the grant year.

b) **How can I expect to receive an award/rejection letter?**

Award/rejection letters will be distributed via email.

B-4: Installments

a) **What are the installments amounts?**

Payments are made to awarded recipients in three separate installments. The first and second installment amounts are 40% and the final is 20%, of the total awarded amount.

Installments will be processed for release to awardees via electronic transfer, following WHC's review and approval of required deliverables.

b) **What documents are required before WHC will release the installment?**

See [Chart 2 - Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments - STAMP](#). After all required and requested documentation has been completed and approved by WHC, payment will be processed for disbursement.

NOTE: WHC requires at least 4 weeks to process and release payment installments.

Failure to submit all necessary/requested documentation and reporting by the deadline, may result in the forfeit of funding in whole or in part.

c) **When will WHC release the installments?**

IMPORTANT:

- **Invoices must be made out to Wildlife Habitat Canada** and include the following information:
Wildlife Habitat Canada
247-2039 Robertson Road
Ottawa ON
K2H 8R2
Attn: Kylie Graham, Grant Administrator

First installment: All correct, required documentation, listed in [Chart 2 - Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments - STAMP](#), must be submitted to and approved by WHC to receive the first installment. A complete and approved application package, along with the fully signed Letter of Agreement (LOA), completed Electronic Funds Transfer Form and approved Invoice #1, are required in order for WHC to begin the processing of release of the first installment.

Second installment: All correct, required documentation, listed in the [Chart 2 - Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments- STAMP](#), must be submitted to and approved by WHC to receive the second installment.

Third (final) installment: All correct, required documentation, listed in the [Chart 2 - Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments – STAMP](#), must be submitted to and approved by WHC.

How will WHC release the installments?

WHC will electronically transfer funds, directly to the awardee, for all installments.

Chart 2 - Checklist of Required Documentation for Application and Installments - STAMP

CAUTION:

- If an Applicant fails to submit a complete Application Form or fails to upload the correct, requested documentation in an acceptable format with their Application Form submission, the application may be deemed incomplete and disqualified from funding consideration.
- If the Awardee fails to submit all required correct documentation by the Interim Reporting deadlines, the Awardee may be required to forfeit funding and return any STAMP funds to WHC, immediately.
- If the Awardee fails to submit all required documentation by the Final Reporting deadline, final installment will not be released.

| Documentation to be submitted with Application Form; for Mid-Project Milestones; and/or installments. | Required with Application Form | Required at Award Notification | Required at Interim Reporting | Required with Final Reporting |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Complete Application Form | ✓ | | | |
| 2) Project Budget <i>*Required only if approved funding amount is different than the original request and the application budget.</i> | ✓ | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3) Complete Activity Table | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 4) Signed Letter of Agreement and Invoice #1 <i>* ASAP once received; Invoice #1 at 40% of total award amount</i> | | ✓* | | |
| 5) Complete Interim Report and Invoice #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Interim Report Form • Interim Project Budget <i>Including copies of all claimed project expenses (receipts are to be numbered for ease of review and reconciliation with the Interim Budget Report.</i> • Invoice #2 at 40% of the total award amount • Interim Project Activity Table | | | ✓ | |
| 6) Complete Final Report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Final Report Form • Final Project Budget | | | | |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p><i>Including copies of all claimed project expenses (receipts are to be numbered for ease of review and reconciliation with the Final Budget Report.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invoice #3 at 20% of the total award amount • Final Project Activity Table | | | | ✓ |
| <p>7) At least one high quality image of the Project, *for possible use in WHC and/or ECCC social media and other promotional materials, with authorization to WHC and ECCC for the use of the image(s). *In cases of a confidentiality/privacy conflict with this requirement, please contact WHC.</p> | | | ✓ | ✓ |

GLOSSARY

Award/Rejection Letter: Refers to the letter sent by WHC to the Applicant, advising whether or not the Applicant's Application has been approved to receive federal funds under the NHCP-LTCF, or if it has been rejected. If the Applicant has been approved, the letter will inform the Applicant of the maximum amount of federal funds awarded, as well as the necessary documents required (next steps) in order to receive first installment.

External Review Panel (ERP): The ERP is comprised of 3 to 6 advisors from across Canada who have strong knowledge or experience in matters of land conservation and/or grant making in conservation. They will be responsible for reviewing the qualitative attributes of each application that WHC has deemed to have met all eligibility requirements. The ERP will evaluate projects using the external [STAMP Application Review Criteria](#). WHC reviews the ERP evaluations and then presents its recommendations to NCC for funding. NCC ultimately makes the final decisions regarding awards.

Project: For the full project definition under the STAMP Program, see section [A-3: Project Eligibility](#).

Volunteer: A volunteer is a person who works for an organization without being paid, a person who voluntarily offers themselves for a service or undertaking, or a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.

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 (e.g., cattle exclusion fencing).

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

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 quality of habitat through the mitigation of human impact (e.g., installing nest boxes, monitoring wildlife populations and protecting habitat from disturbances, community-based projects that restore riverbanks and prevent soil erosion, etc.).