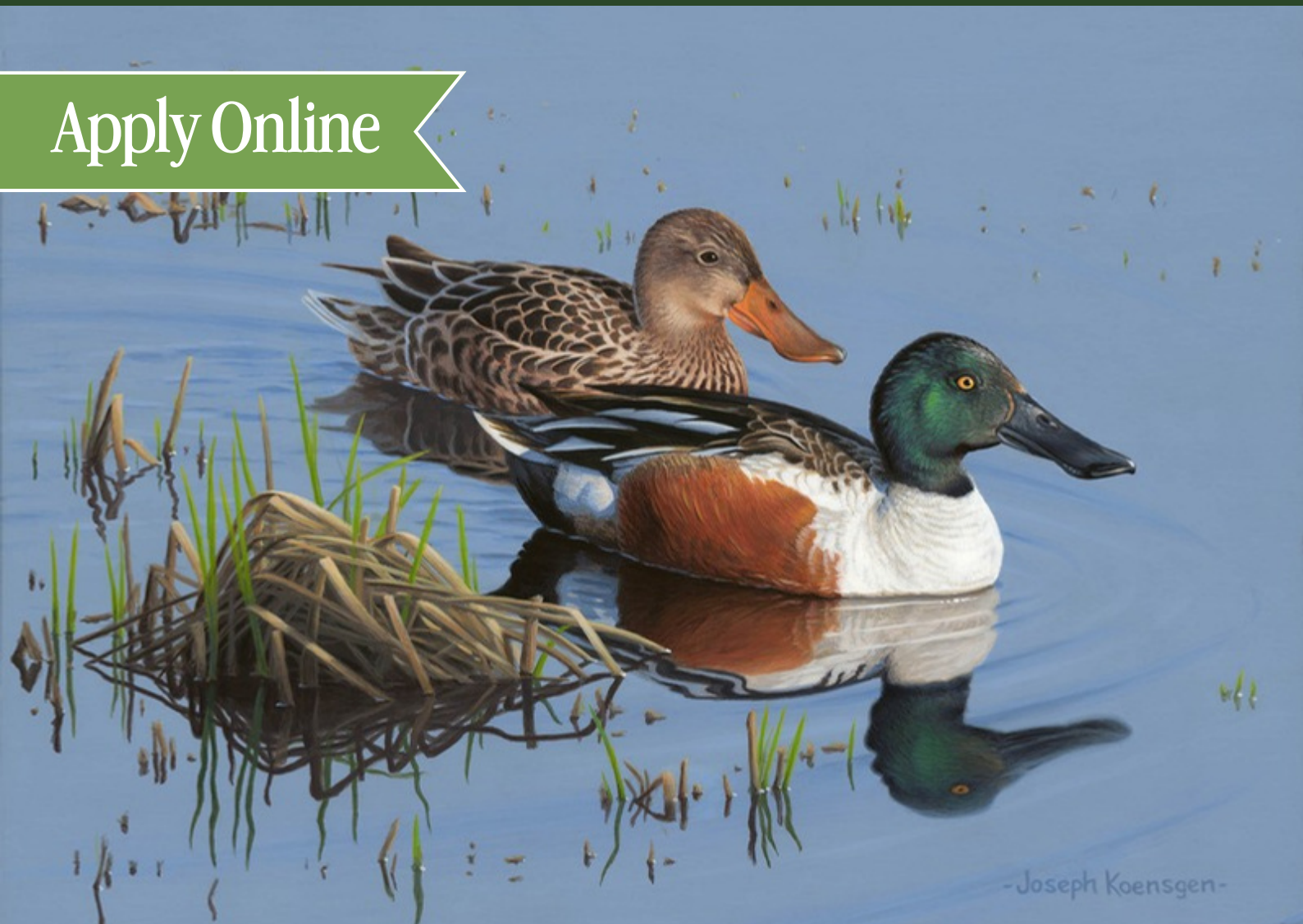




2027 - 2028 Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Apply Online



Art Image: 2026 WHC Art Competition winner - "Evening Reflections - Northern Shoveler" by Joseph Koensgen

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2027-2028 grant program, for projects taking place between April 1, 2027 and March 31, 2028.

Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) invests funds from the sale from the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and Print (CWHS) program to fund conservation projects supporting NAWMP priorities across Canada.

The Canadian Habitat Conservation Stamp Program (STAMP) provides 1 year funding to eligible organizations for projects that support habitat conservation, waterfowl and wetland habitat research, conservation networking and NL Murre conservation.

**Applications open on July 27, 2026.
Apply online before October 18, 2026.**



2023 Conservation Stamp "Boreal Mist - Ring-necked Ducks" by Isabelle Collin

Grant Categories

Habitat Conservation

Habitat Conservation projects support NAWMP priorities, as outlined in the Joint Venture Implementation Plans, by conserving, restoring, protecting, and enhancing priority habitats. Eligible projects may also support habitat for other migratory game birds or repair and rebuild infrastructure that increases wetland acreage, improves ecological integrity or addresses long-term maintenance needs without relying on future WHC funding.

Conservation Networking

Conservation Networking projects support NAWMP Goal 3 by encouraging more waterfowl hunters, conservationists, and community members to take part in waterfowl and wetland habitat conservation. Eligible projects may include wetland education programs and workshops, waterfowl hunter education or recruitment initiatives, online conservation education resources, and activities that promote regional or national stewardship. Projects must include clear learning objectives and a follow-up component to show long-term program benefits. Waterfowl hunter education projects that include a mentored hunt component will receive priority.

Research

Research projects support a better understanding of waterfowl and habitat conservation in NAWMP priority areas. To be considered for funding, applicants must include a letter of support from the scientific or technical committee of the associated NAWMP Joint Venture in Canada with their application.

Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund

Projects under the Newfoundland and Labrador Murre Conservation Fund support Murre conservation and management activities, including population assessments, hunting stewardship and wildlife conservation initiatives that help sustain Murre populations, and other Murre habitat conservation activities or events.



Photo Credit: Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Recipients of the Grant Program are:

- 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.

All applicants are expected to read, understand and follow the Program Guidelines.

*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;
- Ensure that the appropriate 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.

Ineligible Recipients of the Grant Program include but are not limited to: International organizations or individuals; Federal Government employees, departments, agencies, and crown corporations.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible Projects must:

- Comply with all relevant legislation, regulations, licences, permits and other applicable requirements;
- Take place between April 1, 2027 and March 31, 2028. If approved, WHC grant funds must be spent between April 1, 2027 and March 31, 2028;
- Be time-limited and goal-oriented. Ongoing or core business activities are not eligible for STAMP funding;
- Have a funding request between \$1,000 and \$150,000 Canadian dollars;
- Not have received WHC funding more than twice previously, unless substantial changes have been made to the project design;
- Clearly demonstrate a minimum 1:1 funding match ratio in the 2027-2028 fiscal year or within one year of the project start date. Applicants must indicate the year in which matching funds are secured. Funding from other Government of Canada programs cannot be counted as match.

WHC will not fund:

- Contributions to an endowment fund;
- Costs directly related to acquiring land or an interest in land, including a lease, conservation easement or conservation covenant;
- *NEW* Ongoing, recurring or routine activities that are central to an organization's regular operations, mandate, programs, services or administration; or
- *NEW* The same project by the same organization more than three times.

Conservation Networking Projects

NEW For the 2027-2028 program year, WHC will not fund generalized hunter education programs that do not have a clear waterfowl hunting component.

Invasive Alien Species Projects

To be eligible for funding, projects with Invasive Alien Species (IAS) components must focus on education and awareness, research, and long-term eradication of IAS in wetlands and waterfowl habitat. Further guidance on IAS project eligibility is available at whc.org.

Supporting All Groups

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 2027-2028 grant program. WHC encourages applications from First Nations, Indigenous and Metis organizations, governments and communities.

If you have specific access needs, or require accommodations in the application process, please reach out to Jennifer Collard at jcollard@whc.org or (613) 722-2090 X0267



Photo Credit: BC Wildlife Federation

Application Process

Application forms must be completed and **submitted online**.

Applicants will be prompted first to create a username and password. You can add collaborators to your application if there are multiple people assisting you with your submission. You can save your work at any point in time.

The application window will open on July 27, 2026.

Note: Any application forms submitted to WHC by email or mail will not be considered.

Before you begin

- Review this Call for Proposals document
- Review the Program Guidelines
- Review the WHC Letter of Agreement (funding agreement)
- Explore your applicable Habitat or Species Joint Venture

Deadline to apply: Sunday, October 18, 2026



Questions?

If you require any further information, or assistance in completing your applications, please contact Jennifer Collard, Project Manager, by email (grants@whc.org) or by phone (613-722-2090 x 0267)



Photo Credit: Stewardship Association of Municipalities

Selection Process

Grant applications received by WHC are reviewed on their own merit annually.

1. Grant applications submitted by the October 18, 2026 deadline will be reviewed by WHC Staff for eligibility.
2. A review panel made up of technical and professional subject matter experts will review and score each eligible application according to determined criteria. The grant review criteria is available for review at whc.org.
3. Applicant project scores are presented to Wildlife Habitat Canada's Board of Directors in late January 2027. The Board considers factors including but not limited to:
 - a. Equitable geographic distribution of WHC support across Canada.
 - b. Involvement of multiple funding partners.
 - c. Assurance that WHC funds will be used for project-related activities within the specified fiscal timeframe.
 - d. Support for the waterfowl hunting community's role in wildlife and habitat conservation.
 - e. Promotion of the importance of wildlife habitat conservation in Canada.
 - f. Potential for lasting conservation impact.
 - g. Projects that are not part of an organization's core programming.
 - h. Projects that have not received WHC funding for three consecutive years.
4. Applicants will be advised of the Board's funding decision prior to April 1, 2027. It is anticipated that award notifications will be provided in February 2027.
5. Successful applicants will receive a 2027-2028 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.

Please note that receiving funding one year does not guarantee subsequent funding, and that projects are no longer eligible for STAMP funding more than three times.

Every year, WHC receives grant requests that more than *double* the funds available through the STAMP program.

Available funding will be allocated on the following basis:

- up to 65% of the funds available will be directed to Habitat Conservation projects;
- up to 25% of the funds available will be directed to Conservation Networking projects;
- up to 10% of the funds available will be directed to Research projects; and,
- up to \$30,000 is available to projects under the NL Murre Conservation Fund.

About the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp Initiative



The inaugural painting in 1985 by Robert Bateman "Mallard Pair - Early Winter"

The **Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp** was introduced in 1985 to raise funds for Canadian conservation. The money generated from the Stamp provides funds for important conservation work through WHC's grant program.

It all begins with an art competition - artists submit their work to Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) for selection for the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp.

The winning artwork is featured on the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, which is affixed to the Canadian Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit. It is also reproduced as limited-edition prints for collectors, art enthusiasts and conservation supporters. The proceeds from Stamp and art sales are then awarded to relevant conservation projects across Canada.

Since the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp was introduced in 1985, WHC has invested over \$64 million in more than 1,600 conservation projects across Canada. Thanks to the program's 1:1 matching funding requirements, our grantees have leveraged over \$182 million in additional funding from conservation partners.



Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) is a national conservation charity working to **connect** Canadians to nature and **protect** important habitat for wildlife **together** with our community partners from coast to coast. Through funding, collaboration and community-based action, we invest in local projects that restore habitats, inspire stewardship and create lasting benefits for people, wildlife, and the natural places they share.

Learn more at whc.org

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