



IMPACT REPORT

2023

NATURE TRUST
BRITISH COLUMBIA



OUR IMPACT IN 2023



734 acres
(297 hectares) of land
conserved across
British Columbia



4 new
conservation
areas
established



\$5.0 million
total fair market
value of lands
conserved in 2023



\$10.7 million
funds raised from
donors and partners



21 restoration
projects
completed

**THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S NATURAL
TREASURES, FOREVER.**



LETTER FROM CEO

At The Nature Trust of BC, our mission to conserve British Columbia's biodiversity through the securement, restoration, and stewardship of ecologically significant lands guides everything that we do. Each year brings new opportunities to protect the habitats that sustain wildlife, support healthy ecosystems, and connect communities with nature.

I am proud to share that 2023 was a landmark year for conservation. Thanks to generosity from our donors and supporters, we raised \$10.7 million, established four new conservation areas, and protected more than 730 acres of critical habitat across the province. In particular, 2023 marked a significant expansion of our work in central and northern British Columbia, where we secured important wetlands, forests, and wildlife corridors in the Prince George region and beyond.

From the wetlands of Ferguson Lake and Cranberry Marsh to the ancient inland forests of Crescent Spur, these acquisitions protect habitat for countless species, including grizzly bear, wolverine, western toad, migratory birds, and many species at risk.

Our impact extended beyond land securement. Across British Columbia, our restoration and stewardship teams continued vital work to restore estuaries, improve habitat resilience, tackle invasive species, and monitor wildlife populations.



In June, we announced the Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) Estuary Restoration Project, the largest estuary restoration project ever undertaken on Vancouver Island, work that will not only restore an estuary, but also Indigenous food systems in the area.

None of this would have been possible without our supporters. Together, we are protecting some of British Columbia's most important natural treasures and creating a lasting legacy for future generations.

Yours with appreciation,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "J. Lament".

Dr. Jasper Lament
CEO, Nature Trust of BC



LANDS PROTECTED FOREVER IN 2023

With your support, The Nature Trust of BC purchased and protected 734.2 acres (297.1 hectares) of precious wildlife habitat across the province.

WEST COAST

1 Little Qualicum River | 36 acres (15 hectares)

The Little Qualicum River is an important salmon spawning river on the mid-east coast of Vancouver Island, located on the traditional territory of the Qualicum First Nation. There is a salmon hatchery upstream of the conservation area and the river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, coho, chum and steelhead.

Other species at risk include little brown myotis and northern myotis, barn swallow and olive-sided flycatcher, evening grosbeak, band-tailed pigeon, autumn meadowhawk, blue dasher, and western pondhawk dragonflies.



NORTH AND CENTRAL INTERIOR

2 Ferguson Lake—Wetlands—Phase I 319 acres (129.2 hectares)

Ferguson Lake—Wetlands, is located in the city of Prince George and in the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation. The land is adjacent to the Ferguson Lake Conservation Area, a 31 hectare conservation area owned by The Nature Trust of BC. With the purchase of Ferguson Lake—Wetlands, the contiguous protected land expanded to 160 hectares. These private conservation parcels are connected to provincial Crown land parcels, forming a natural wildlife corridor and increasing connectivity within the region. Ferguson Lake—Wetlands has merchantable timber value and its purchase ensured that its mature and old growth riparian forests and wetlands are protected in perpetuity.

Species at risk include barn swallow and evening grosbeak, western toad, and the long-toed salamander. Other species that call this conservation area home are black bear, grizzly bear, moose, elk, American marten, American beaver, and Canada lynx.



3 Crescent Spur | 284.6 acres (115.2 hectares)

Crescent Spur is located 55 km northwest of the community of McBride and within the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. The conservation area includes ancient inland forest, with trees older than 1,000 years, and rare riparian ecosystems. The area contains two different types of ecosystems—the Sub-Boreal Spruce and the Interior Cedar-Hemlock. Both exhibit a very wet and cool climate and are at-risk ecosystems

Species at risk include little brown myotis, barn swallow, short-eared owl, common nighthawk, olive-sided flycatcher, horned grebe, grizzly bear, rusty blackbird, and wolverine.



4 Cranberry Marsh-West—Phase I 94.6 acres (38.3 hectares)

Cranberry Marsh-West is located approximately 292 km southeast of Prince George and contains wetlands as well as low shrub and grass ecosystems with pockets of forest. The land is adjacent to the Cranberry Marsh/Starratt Wildlife Management Area and increases the total conservation area to 882 acres (357 hectares), increasing connectivity for wildlife.

Species at risk include the black swift and western toad. The wetlands contain crucial breeding grounds for birds as well as a migratory bird stopover along the Pacific Flyway.





RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

WEST COAST

Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu Estuary Restoration

The Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) Estuary Restoration Project is the largest estuary restoration project to ever occur on Vancouver Island, aiming to restore vitally important estuary habitat and enhance estuary resilience against rising sea-levels. The project will rejuvenate habitat crucial for the survival of key fish and wildlife species, including wild Pacific Salmon, migratory and breeding birds as well as species-at-risk. The project involves the combined removal of over 2 km of dikes at Quw'utsun (Cowichan) River Estuary and Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Marsh, the creation of intertidal channels and salt marsh habitat, the restoration of marine riparian and flood fringe forests, and the reconnection of areas that have been historically cut off from tidal influence.



SOUTH COAST

Benthic Barriers to Manage Invasive Species

Our South Coast Field Crew has been experimenting with the effectiveness of both solar tarps and benthic barriers in various conservation areas to combat Himalayan blackberry, reed canary grass, and yellow flag iris, all highly invasive species with a significant rate of establishment in affected areas. At Camp Slough, solar tarps successfully slowed the growth of Himalayan blackberry, particularly in the centre of treated areas. The strongest results were seen at Wells Sanctuary, where benthic barriers effectively killed yellow flag Iris rhizomes and reduced the density, growth, and distribution of this invasive species in treated sections of Luck-a-Kuck Creek.



OKANAGAN

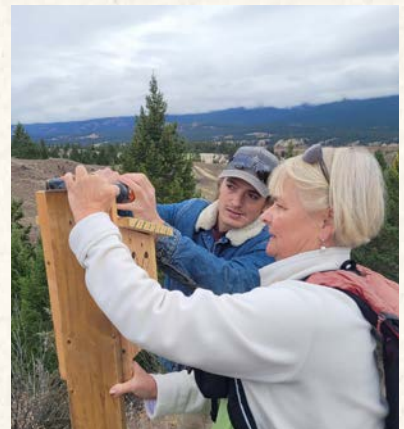
Building Resilience for BC's Bats

Bats play a vital role in British Columbia's ecosystems, but many species are at risk and face an additional threat from the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, which was first detected in the province in 2022. To support bat conservation, NTBC's Okanagan Field Crew conducted bat counts and collected guano samples for testing at NTBC's White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch and Skaha Lake Eastside Conservation Area. These monitoring efforts help track bat populations, detect the presence of the fungus, and inform conservation actions to support resilient bat populations through habitat protection.

KOOTENAY

Enhancing Habitat for Cavity Nesting Birds

We partnered with volunteers from the Fairmont Bluebirds to enhance bird habitat at the NTBC Hoodoos Conservation Area, installing a new set of nest boxes overlooking the Columbia River Wetlands. These boxes were generously donated through the collaborative efforts of the Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club and participants of the BC Wildlife Federation's Wild Kidz camp, who built and decorated each box with welcoming artwork and messages. This project not only expanded available nesting habitat for cavity nesting species but also strengthened community stewardship. The Fairmont Bluebirds continue to monitor this trail weekly, gathering valuable data on nest box use and breeding success to support long term conservation outcomes for local bird populations.





ESTUARY RESILIENCE

In June 2023 we announced the Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) Estuary Restoration Project — the largest estuary restoration project ever undertaken on Vancouver Island. Led by The Nature Trust of BC in partnership with Cowichan Tribes, Ducks Unlimited Canada, government agencies, and community partners, the project will restore more than 70 hectares of vital estuarine habitat in the Quw'utsun (Cowichan) River Estuary. Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth, providing essential habitat for wild Pacific salmon, migratory birds, and many species at risk. Restoration activities include removing more than two kilometers of dikes, creating new intertidal channels and salt marsh habitat, restoring marine riparian forests, and

reconnecting areas that have been cut off from tidal influence for decades. In addition to improving habitat and increasing resilience to sea-level rise, the project supports the revitalization of Indigenous food systems and strengthens the ecological health of one of Vancouver Island's most important coastal ecosystems for future generations.

Learn more at estuaryresilience.ca



Estuary
RESILIENCE



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

GALA

On October 5, 2023, The Nature Trust of BC welcomed supporters, partners, and conservation champions to our annual Fall Gala. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and donors, the evening raised an incredible \$700,000 in support of land conservation across British Columbia. Through the Government of Canada's Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, these contributions were matched, doubling the impact to \$1.4 million for the protection of wildlife habitat and ecosystems across the province. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and supporters who helped make the evening such a success.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Vancouver Queer Birders: NTBC partnered with Vancouver Queer Birders to host a birding tour at Boundary Bay, an internationally important habitat along the Pacific Flyway. Participants explored the dike, marsh, and mudflats while learning about migratory birds and the ecological importance of the Fraser River estuary.



Brant Wildlife Festival: NTBC kicked off the 2023 Brant Wildlife Festival with an opening reception featuring music, community conversations, and discussions about conservation partnerships. The event included remarks from representatives of the Snaw-naw-as First Nation and NTBC, highlighting the importance of protecting nature for current and future generations.



Probus Tour: NTBC welcomed members of the Probus Club of Vancouver to Addington Point Marsh Conservation Area for a guided tour highlighting biodiversity, wetland conservation, and stewardship in the Pitt River Valley. The event connected community members with NTBC's conservation work and the ecological significance of protected lands.





PARTNERSHIPS

ALDERGROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The future of conservation! In 2023, students at Aldergrove Elementary School supported The Nature Trust of BC through a fundraising initiative focused on protecting salmon habitat. Led by teacher Paul Davidson, the project connected students with the importance of habitat conservation and environmental stewardship while raising funds to help protect land across BC. These students' efforts demonstrate how young people can make a lasting impact on British Columbia's ecologically important lands.

NATURE'S WAY CANADA

In 2023, The Nature Trust of BC was proud to partner with Nature's Way Canada through the 1% for the Planet initiative. Selected by Nature's Way employees as a recipient organization, NTBC received support from sales of NutraSea and NutraVege products to help conserve critical wildlife habitat across British Columbia. Nature's Way's investment in conservation demonstrates how businesses can play a meaningful role in protecting nature for future generations.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is led by a volunteer Board of Directors who are renowned scientists and business leaders.

The Board meets four times a year and has five Standing Committees — Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Biodiversity and Land Management Committee, Conservation Fundraising Committee, and Audit, Finance and Investment Committee. The Chief Executive Officer is accountable to the Board and is responsible for carrying out a strategic plan that is renewed every five years.

The Advisory Council was established in 2007 and is made up of past Directors of the Board. The Advisory Council meets once a year and provides guidance to the organization.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jim Wyse

FINANCIALS

ASSETS

Cash and receivables	\$10,941,539
Investments	\$48,022,420
Capital assets	\$2,055,055
Properties	\$147,052,218
TOTAL	\$208,071,232

LIABILITIES

Current	\$527,047
Deferred revenue	\$14,682,956
Net Assets	\$192,861,229
TOTAL	\$208,071,232

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$10,685,033
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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, The Nature Trust of BC secured \$5,005,414 in property holdings and spent a further \$3,438,322 on restoration and land management. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed an incredible \$10,718,599 to The Nature Trust of British Columbia during the year.

We were also able to increase our net assets by \$10,685,033, while contributing \$962,214 to our land management fund.



naturetrust.bc.ca

Photo: Little Qualicum River

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