
What is the NS Habitat Conservation Fund?

The Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund (the FUND) is established under the Nova Scotia Wildlife Act to assist in funding programs for protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitats. The current source of money for the FUND is compulsory purchases of Wildlife Habitat Stamps attached to hunting and trapping licenses. The FUND is administered by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources and Renewables through a Board of Directors composed of representatives from the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Nature Nova Scotia and academia.

This guide will assist you in applying to the FUND and the Application Form that you will need to fill out is located at the end of this guide. The Application Guide and Form are available on the Natural Resources and Renewables, Wildlife Division website at: <http://novascotia.ca/natr/wildlife/habfund/> or by contacting us (see contact information below).

Objectives, Project Selection, and Priorities

The FUND was established for the purpose of funding projects for the protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitats throughout the Province.

The Board of Directors of the FUND will recommend projects for funding to the Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. Approval by the Minister may be conditional upon project modification. Projects will be selected on the basis of their:

- Relevance to the priority activities of the FUND [priority activities are listed below];
- Level of support from partner organizations;
- Level of matching funding and/or in-kind support [projects must be on a cost shared basis with the FUND money not to exceed 75% of total project cost];
- Individual merit and overall quality of the application.
- Ability to report on measurable outcomes to track success.

Current priority activities are organized according to each of the four FUND objectives:

1. Priority Activities for the Enhancement of Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats

- Projects which conserve wildlife habitat as functioning components of ecosystems to maintain the biological diversity of native species.

- Projects incorporating wildlife habitat objectives into rural and municipal planning and development.
- Projects which increase the quality and quantity of urban wildlife habitat.
- Projects which include wildlife habitat within farmland.
- Projects which include wildlife habitat within private woodlots.
- Habitat restoration, enhancement, and management projects.

2. Priority Activities for Land Acquisition

- Conservation of critical, unique, or high value wildlife habitat through purchase or easement.
- Acquisition for the maintenance and management of a population of any species of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

3. Priority Activities for Research Pertaining to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats

- Alternative methods and approaches to resource development and timber harvesting in forested landscapes, so as to ensure the long-term sustainability of forests as wildlife habitat.
- Innovative and practical research on habitat and wildlife conservation.
- Projects which critique provincial, national and international policies impacting wildlife and habitats in Nova Scotia.
- Design and assessment of habitat-related and ecological indicators to monitor the health of habitats and landscapes.

4. Priority Activities for Education on Wildlife Habitats

- Programs which develop an awareness and appreciation among children and young adults as to the importance of wildlife habitat.
- Programs which develop an appreciation and understanding of habitat conservation issues among the public and within industry.
- Programs which encourage private landowners to partner and co-operate in managing wildlife habitat.
- Education as it pertains to conservation, ethical use of natural resources, and hunting and trapping as an important management tool and recreational activity.

Note that, in general, the Fund does not support:

- Habitat inventories;
- Tree planting programs (unless a minor part of a broader habitat conservation project);
- Fisheries management projects;
- Projects which are a provincial or federal management responsibility;
- Capital costs associated with projects, such as electronic equipment (e.g. computers, tablets, ipads, phones), buildings, engineering works, or motorized vehicle acquisition.

- Ongoing core funding for a program or organization. To be eligible for funding, multi-year projects must demonstrate how the current proposal differs from previous proposals, and how the current proposal will build upon knowledge gained from previous proposals.

*Consideration may be given for materials indispensable to project delivery such as trail cameras for studies, educational trailers for mobile displays. If uncertain if an item can be supported by the Fund, please contact the Fund's administrator.

Funding

Normally, projects are not funded for more than \$25,000 (\$50,000 for land acquisition). The FUND will subsidize projects on a cost-shared basis **not to exceed 75% of total project cost**. The Habitat Conservation Fund **will not contribute to administration fees**. Matching funding may include in-kind and/or financial resources, and letters of support from matching funders must accompany the Application Form. In-kind (donated) contributions can be calculated in the following manner:

- Non-professional in-kind contribution is to be determined using the minimum wage standard.
- Kilometrage associated with the project can be credited at \$0.4615/km.
- Donated professional services, facilities, materials and equipment will be valued at fair market prices, i.e. salaried employees up to \$20/hr., professional consultants \$500/day (MSc), \$750/day (PhD).

Eligible applicants

Anyone or any organization that is interested in helping with the not for-profit protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats on Crown and private land in Nova Scotia is eligible to apply to the FUND.

Project Length

The maximum length of a project that will be funded is **one year**. Although multi-year projects may be approved in principle, grants will only be awarded on an annual basis. Applicants must submit progress reports and reapply for grants in subsequent years. Applications to continue a previously funded project must demonstrate how the current proposal varies from and builds upon knowledge gained from the previously funded project.

Application Deadline

The completed application form must be received by **15 October**. Letters of support from matching funding sources must accompany your Application Form. To conduct a fair and thorough evaluation of all proposals, the deadline dates for submission of complete proposals must be strictly adhered to.

Applicants are requested to submit their application online at [Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund- Simple Forms service - Government of Nova Scotia](#). For assistance, please contact habfund@novascotia.ca.

Conditions for Awarding Habitat Conservation Fund Grants

Please familiarize yourself with the following conditions for awarding Habitat Conservation Fund grants. If you have any questions regarding these please contact us.

1. Payments are made in the form of a grant subsequent to the signing of a legal agreement according to the following schedule:
 - 1) 50% advance
 - 2) 40% interim advance - upon presentation of invoices to cover at least 80% of the first advance.
 - 3) 10% final payment - upon presentation of final project and financial report, along with invoices, cancelled cheques to cover the whole project.
2. It is the proponent's responsibility to account for all project and associated administration costs in budget preparation, including GST and other taxes.
3. The Project shall be completed and final project and financial reports submitted by the end of fiscal (March 31) for the year the grant was awarded. The FUND reserves the right to conduct an audit of the financial records of the applicant. If an application for funding subsequent years in a multi-year project is successful, grants will not be awarded until the applicant has submitted a final report to the satisfaction of the administrator of the FUND for the previous year's award.
4. Progress reports must be submitted on a regular basis (as defined in the grant agreement), or as requested by the FUND.
5. The proponent must give the FUND appropriate credit and acknowledge the FUND's financial contribution in any product or any publicity (including articles written about the project by others) relating to the project. This will include use of the FUND's logo where appropriate. A copy must be forwarded to the FUND.
6. An electronic copy of final project and financial reports must be produced and submitted to the FUND before final payment is received.

The project report will be posted on the FUND website and should include:

- 1) project goals and objectives;
- 2) an outline of the work completed, including sampling methods where appropriate;
- 3) results;
- 4) an assessment of achievements and lessons learned, measured against the project goals and objectives, including reporting on performance measures;
- 5) recommendations for follow-up steps to the project;

The financial report should include:

- 1) total value of the project including matching money and in-kind support.
- 2) Invoices, cancelled cheques to cover the whole project.

7. Funds awarded will not be distributed until any outstanding reports from previous grant cycles have been submitted.