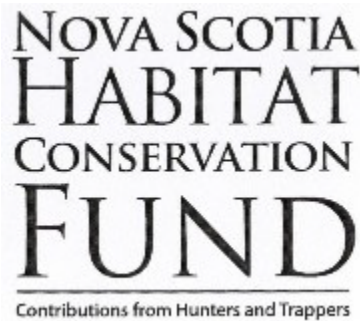


Habitat Conservation Fund 2022 Approved Projects



Freshwater Mussel Initiative

Atlantic Coastal Action Program

Awarded: \$14,249.00

As part of ACAP's Species at Risk Habitat Enhancement Program (SARHEP) to restore and protect stream habitat, this project will focus on freshwater mussels as they improve water quality for Atlantic salmon, and freshwater ecosystems. With expertise from CBU, ACAP will develop standardized mussel surveys and mussel-safe in-stream training, both resources will be made available to field teams in Atlantic Canada. Habitat restoration is also included.

Lily Lake Wetland Restoration Project – Year 1

Atlantic Coastal Action Program

\$22,398.00

This application is for phase 1 of a multi-year project to restore an urban wetland (Lily Lake) and create an accessible boardwalk system, as well as an educational centre. Lily Lake represents critical wetland habitat; there are a variety of wetland plants and animals, including anecdotal reports of turtles. Phase 1 of the project consists of 1) developing a comprehensive management plan with the municipality; 2) restoration activities; 3) community engagement and education.

Canopy lichens of old forests in Nova Scotia: correcting for spatial sampling bias -Year 2

Saint Mary University

\$12,713.77

This work will help us to better prioritize lands for protection and to make more accurate population estimates for species at risk. It expands upon work from 2021 on bias that results from sampling arboreal lichens only within reach of the ground. We will sample lichens in the canopy and on the lower bole of large, old trees, and develop correction factors (equations) that more accurately estimate lichen biodiversity and population sizes through the province.

Monitoring of mercury speciation and nutrient export from a bog habitat impacted by herring gull guano and water table restoration on Brier Island

Acadia University

\$22,000.00

Mercury (Hg) is a toxic contaminant that accumulates in ecosystems, affecting the health of wildlife and degrading habitat quality in Nova Scotia. Our previous research over a 3-year period, indicates that the concentration of methyl mercury (MeHg), in the northern outflow has fluctuated on a seasonal cycle post- restoration and the literature suggests increases may continue over a three-to-nine-year time span. This research provides fundamental information critical to the recovery and maintenance of a recently restored bog ecosystem that is impacted by thousands of resident herring gulls feeding at mink farms in south-central Nova Scotia.

Space to Roost Volunteer Program: Volunteers helping to Reduce Disturbances at Vital Shorebird Habitats in the Minas Basin

Birds Canada

21,065.00

Minas Basin coastal beaches are globally- significant roosting spaces for 100,000s of migrant shorebirds, yet lack of safe roosting spaces can impact their survival during migration to South America. By creating a new Space to Roost Volunteer Program, we aim to harness the dedication of volunteers, to provide critical on-the-ground and sustainable stewardship for local shorebird conservation, linking with safe migration sites for shorebirds across Atlantic flyway.

Reptiles at Risk: Conservation of the Snapping Turtle and Eastern Ribbonsnake

Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

\$16,000.00

This project focuses on two at-risk reptile species, the common snapping turtle and Eastern ribbonsnake in Southwest Nova Scotia. It uses a multi-pronged approach to identify threats to these species and their habitats, harness volunteers to increase survey effort and sightings, and work with stakeholders and the public to actively engage them in conservation initiatives that promote improved habitat, biodiversity, and reduce threats to these species at risk.

Protecting Bank Swallows in Nova Scotia (Year 1): Documenting Colonies and Habitats

Birds Canada

\$14,970.00

Bank Swallows are a Threatened species experiencing serious declines across Canada. Documenting and monitoring colony locations is an important way to understand local and regional trends in this species. Identifying breeding colony locations allows local stewardship action and threat reduction action; and education helps protect breeding sites and nearby foraging habitat through public awareness of declines and threats to Bank Swallows.

The Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens Ecosystem Community Education, Engagement and Citizen Science

Clean Annapolis River Project

\$15,000.00

This project will engage local community members in the conservation and stewardship of the *Annapolis Valley Sand Barrens*, a rare ecosystem found only in Nova Scotia. It has been estimated that 97% of this

ecosystem has been lost as a result of human activities. What remains of the barrens is largely owned and managed by private landowners, meaning this group has a substantial say in the future of this rare ecosystem.

Conserving Habitat for Landbirds at Risk in Forested Landscapes in Nova Scotia

Dalhousie University

\$20,000.00

This project will conserve habitat for the Canada Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Rusty Blackbird in working forest landscapes in Nova Scotia by finding solutions that support both forestry and the birds: Operational guidelines for Beneficial Management Practices for these Species at Risk will be developed, applied, and tested through a multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Development of a species distribution model for Wood Turtle in Nova Scotia

Dalhousie University

\$18,772.60

The Recovery Plan for the Wood Turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) in NS has identified research needs to support species' recovery that include: 1) refining knowledge of habitat needs; 2) improving knowledge and extent of populations; and 3) prioritizing and conducting targeted surveys. Our species distribution models for wood turtles in NS will better define population ranges and assist in the prioritization of survey sites for population monitoring.

Geographic distribution, prevalence, and intensity of brain worms in Nova Scotia deer

Acadia University

\$11,400.00

Brain worms are generally benign in white-tailed deer, but often fatal in moose. The prevalence and distribution of brain worms has not been evaluated in Nova Scotia since the 1960s, and a lot has changed since then (e.g., climate). Some starting points for managing moose populations include quantifying prevalence and intensity of brain worms in deer, and mapping hot spots. We will concomitantly relate these data to evidence of deer stressors.

Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Wetland Education

Ducks Unlimited Canada

\$18,500.00

The TWNS program benefits important wildlife habitat, specifically wetlands, through land stewardship and public education. We will select one to two wetlands that demonstrate high social and cultural value. This year, our focus is on integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge in TWNS and our wetland field trip program, through translating material into Mi'kmaq and developing activities with a two-eyed seeing approach.

Trappers Mentorship Program

Trappers Association of Nova Scotia

\$18,000.00

Increase knowledge of new trappers on humane and current trapping methods, trapping safety and dog proof equipment/sets. Increase trapper participation through a highly functional mentoring program focusing on natural renewal products from Nova Scotia's fur bearing animals. Make new trappers aware of sound habitat and wildlife management. Students will also gain knowledge and skills on diverse wildlife habitat and the role trappers play in conservation of wildlife habitats.