

COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND (CVLCF) FINAL REPORT 2019

General Instructions

- Final reports must be submitted **by 4:00 pm MT January 31, 2020** to the Kootenay Conservation Program. Email final report to info@kootenayconservation.ca.
- All areas of the final report must be answered.

Section A – GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Project Title (as indicated in application): Securement of Columbia River Wetlands: Edgewater Con. Property

2. Proponent

- a) Legal Name: The Nature Trust of British Columbia
- b) Organization Registration #: BC Societies Act # X9934, Charitable Reg. # 10808 9863 RR 0001
- c) Mailing Address: Suite 500 - 888 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC Postal Code: V6C 3K4
- d) Contact: Chris Bosman, Kootenay Conservation Land Manager
- e) Telephone #: 250-489-8549 f) Fax #: N/A
- g) Email: cbosman@naturetrust.bc.ca

3. Partner (*if applicable*)

- a) Legal Name:
- b) Organization Registration #:
- c) Mailing Address: Postal Code:
- d) Contact:
- e) Telephone #: f) Fax #:
- g) Email:

Section B – PROJECT INFORMATION

- 1. Project Location:** Securement project took place within RDEK Electoral Area G, approximately 6 km north of Radium Hot Springs, just south of the community of Edgewater.
(ie: RDEK area, watershed, direction from major centre, etc)
- 2. Total Project Value:** \$1,276,062.91
- 3. CVLCF Contribution:** \$400,000.00
- 4. Non-CVLCF Contribution:** \$876,062.91
- 5. Single or multiple year project:** Single year/event project, though CVLCF funds were provided over two years.

Section C – PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Please provide a single paragraph describing your project, its objective (goals) and the results. As this summary will be used in CVLCF communications, clearly state the issues addressed and avoid overly technical descriptions. Maximum 2000 characters (~290 words).

On July 18, 2019 after more than four years of effort, the Nature Trust of British Columbia (NTBC) and its partners acquired the 171.5-hectare (423.7 acre) Columbia River Wetlands Edgewater Conservation Property, located just north of Radium Hot Springs.

This outstanding property contains a mosaic of habitats, including open forest, shrub-steppe, grassland, steep clay banks, wetland and riparian floodplain. Located within a biogeoclimatic zone of provincial conservation concern, the very dry cool Interior Douglas Fir, it also serves as critical habitat for many species, including the Red-listed American Badger and the Blue-listed Grizzly Bear.

Located adjacent to the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area (WMA), its wetland complex is contiguous with a RAMSAR site, designated as a Wetland of International Importance because of the significant migratory bird habitat in the area. The property functions as a wildlife corridor by creating a linkage up and down the river valley, while also providing some connectivity across the valley, from the Rocky Mountains to the Purcell Ranges. Its securement contributes to landscape level biodiversity conservation in the Columbia Valley by adding to existing NTBC conservation land, while also tying into the Columbia National Wildlife Area as well as, the Provincial Columbia Wetlands WMA.

An important project for the Columbia Valley, the acquisition provides the opportunity to realize many ecological benefits through stewardship efforts in future, while also removing the property and its ecological values from threats such as development, which has been common in the region in recent decades.

2. OPTIONAL: If your project lends itself to sparking interest through a compelling sound bite (for potential use in CVLCF communications), please tell us what that would be. Maximum 1050 characters (~150 words).

The Columbia River Wetlands Edgewater Conservation Property acquisition includes 423 acres (171.5 hectares) and features outstanding habitat and connectivity for Grizzly Bears and American Badgers, both species of conservation concern. It also provides habitat for Elk, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer and Moose.

"The Property has incredible diversity, ranging from wetlands to grasslands and open forest habitats," said Chris Bosman, Kootenay Conservation Land Manager for The Nature Trust of BC. "From the upper benches, the views across the Columbia Valley and up and down the Rocky Mountain Trench are stunning. As a multi-generational family ranch, the land has been well cared for over the years by the conservation minded Tegart family. The Nature Trust looks forward to carrying on the tradition of responsible land stewardship".

3. Biodiversity Targets (please list, maximum 90 words):

1) Conservation of a biogeoclimatic area of conservation concern (IDFxx); 2) Conservation of habitat for species of conservation concern (American badger, Grizzly Bear); 3) Conservation of other key habitat values and attributes (Ungulate Winter Range, stopover on Pacific Flyway, etc); 4) Expansion of existing conservation lands & protections in the area, providing resilience and landscape level habitat for a full suite of wildlife species & contributes to ecosystem health & function; 5) Wildlife corridor connectivity up/down the Columbia River & across the Rocky Mountain Trench, allowing for genetic dispersal.

4. IUCN Threats to Target (please list, maximum 90 words):

1) Residential & Commercial Development - Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint; 2) Agriculture & Aquaculture - Threats from farming and ranching as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture (includes the impacts of any fencing around farmed areas; 3) Human Intrusions & Disturbances - Threats from human activities that alter, destroy and disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources

Section D – PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND RESULTS

1. Identify the deliverables outlined in your application in the table below (50 words/field) and list the results of each. Please include copies of any relevant communications products (brochures, posters, videos, websites, photos of signage, etc.) resulting from this project. Add an attachment if you need more room.

Deliverables	Results
1. Discussions & visits with landowners over their interest in sale & partial donation of property to NTBC. 2. KCP conducts property evaluation and ranking. 3. Funding secured from KCP for professional property appraisal, undertaken. 4. Landowner presented with appraisal and agrees in principle to sell for appraised Fair Market Value.	1. Meetings took place from 2015 - 2018. 2. KCP Evaluation completed January 31, 2017. 3. Professional appraisal completed July 27, 2017. 4. Appraisal presented to vendor on August 2017.
5. Application to ECCC's Ecological Gifts Program for a split receipt donation. 6. NTBC Board formally endorses Edgewater Property acquisition. 7. NTBC begins fundraising efforts for acquisition. 8. Lawyers representing NTBC and the vendor sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement. 9. Environmental Site Assessment Phase One.	5. Submitted September 1, 2017 & later approval. 6. Completed during September 26, 2017 Board Mtg. 7. Fundraising efforts last from fall 2017 - winter 2019. 8. PSA signed off by both parties January 15, 2018. 9. Contractor completes ESA October 22, 2018 and finds no concerns that would impact PSA terms.
10. Management Direction Plan process undertaken between NTBC, Vendors and Contractor. 11. CVLCF Interim Report due. Fundraising target for property is reached. 12. Property conditions removed and sale of property is completed. 13. News release written and distributed.	10. Contractor works on management plan between October-December, completed December 10, 2018 and agreed to by both parties December 17, 2018. 11. Interim CVLCF report submitted November 1, 2018. By winter 2019, all project funds are secured. 12. Transfer of titles completed on July 18, 2019 13. News release issued July 18th, widely publicized.
14. Startup projects begin on the on property by NTBC staff and contractors. 15. Property hosts several tours/special events throughout summer and fall. 16. Final reports completed for a variety of funders. 17. CVLCF Final Report due.	14. Projects commence in late July 2018 and include invasive plant control, sign installation, development of public parking area, etc. 15. Tours included: including: Batfest (July 20), KCP Fall Gathering Tour (October 5), FWCP Columbia Region Board (October 16). 16. Final reporting out completed during fall 2019 17. Submitted prior to Dec 30, 2019
18. Grand Opening Event for partners, guests. 19. Start up projects on property continue.	18. Scheduled for June 16 or 17, 2019. 19. Start-up projects completed in Fall 2020.

Section E – PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS

1. Please evaluate the effectiveness of the project using objective standards, quantifiable criteria and/or quality control measures identified in your application/proposal. Maximum 2000 characters (~290 words).

NTBC believes the acquisition of the Columbia River Wetlands Edgewater Property succeeded in:

- 1) The conservation of the very cool Interior Douglas Fir (IDF_{EX}) Biogeoclimatic Zone, which is one of four provincial BEC zones that are of provincial conservation concern.
- 2) Securing habitat for at least two species-at-risk, the Red Listed American Badger (SARA Schedule 1, Endangered) and the Blue listed Grizzly Bear (SARA Schedule, Special Concern).
- 3) The protection of other key habitat values and attributes. The property is designated as Class 1 Ungulate Winter Range (UWR) for Mule Deer and Elk and Class 2 UWR for White-tailed Deer and Moose. The property also contains the Blue listed Common Cattail Marsh Habitat Type and provides important migratory habitat to up to 200 bird species, along the Pacific Flyway.
- 4) Expanding the conservation land footprint in the Columbia Valley, as the property directly abuts the 16,952 hectare provincial Columbia Wetlands WMA (a RAMSAR site of international importance), adds to 539 hectares of NTBC Conservation Properties nearby and also ties into the 1002 hectare Columbia National Wildlife Area in the vicinity, as well as a network of other parks and protected areas in the region.
- 5) Contributing to an intact, landscape-level wildlife corridor by providing connectivity up and down the Columbia River valley, while also maintaining a linkage across the valley, linking the Rocky Mountains in the east to the Purcell Mountains in the west. This is particularly important for wide ranging carnivores.
- 6) Permanently removing the property from many threats that have eroded ecological values in the Columbia Valley in recent decades, including: residential, tourism, commercial and industrial development.
- 7) Purchase at Fair Market Value (as appraised), plus a significant landowner donation through an ecogift.

2. What are the top 3 lessons learned from the project that would be important to communicate to others doing similar work throughout the RDEK? Maximum 1050 characters (~150 words).

- 1) 'Cast a wide net' in terms of fundraising efforts for land securement by approaching many funding agencies, individuals and organizations. This approach was successful for NTBC, as we were able to secure the requisite project amount earlier than was originally forecast.
- 2) The land acquisition process often requires a slow and steady approach. In this case, the securement process lasted more than four years. Developing strong working relationships with vendors and funders takes time, yet is critical to project success and clarifying expectations of what land conservation will look like.
- 3) Avoid a property purchase and sale in the middle of the summer, if possible. Many take summer vacation so, staff and contractor availability is constrained. To some extent, the public is not paying as close attention to the media during the summer months either, so exposure can be limited. Summer is also a very busy time for land management staff, a winter or spring property closing would have allowed more time for startup tasks.

Section F – FURTHER COMMENTS

1. Please provide any further comments including recommendations for future conservation efforts. If your project produced a narrative or scientific report or additional project products (e.g. maps, photos), attach them as an Appendix (maximum 90 words).

- 1) A recommendation to the CVLCF may be to consider better defining, through policy(?), how much and how often a land trust can apply to the fund for land acquisition efforts in the future.
- 2) CVLCF may want to consider revising report templates, to be more applicable for securement projects.
- 3) Property maps, news release and a photo gallery have been included as appendices to this report.
- 4) NTBC is very appreciative of the funding received through the CVLCF, it was critical to project success!

Section G – FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Please submit a financial report for the project outlining revenue and expenditures with a comparison to the budget submitted with your CVLCF application. **Use the Final Budget Reporting form provided.** Details on any discrepancies from the budgeted amounts or items are required (maximum 90 words).

Please see the attached CVLCF Final Project Budget Report for detailed financial information. There were some discrepancies between budgets and actuals. The largest deviations were in grant amounts budgeted vs. those actually received. For example, the HSP (SAR stream) wasn't applied to, while new grant programs came on-line (i.e. NHCP-LTCF, EGP LASF) that NTBC was able to secure. Meanwhile other grants provided more funding than anticipated. Also of note, the total project cost was ~\$36,000.00 more than budgeted due to increased costs for an ESA, Mgmt. plan, start-up costs, etc. But, this was all offset by increased revenue.

Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) Final Reporting Budget

Proponent:

Project Title:

Please include both cash and in-kind amounts, and itemize all projected revenues and expenditures, confirmed and pending (including in-kind contributions). Please ensure revenues and expenses balance.

Be sure to identify the specific component(s) of the project allocated to the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund. Record them in the “CVLCF Funding” column.

Please remove all green text upon completion of this Budget Form.

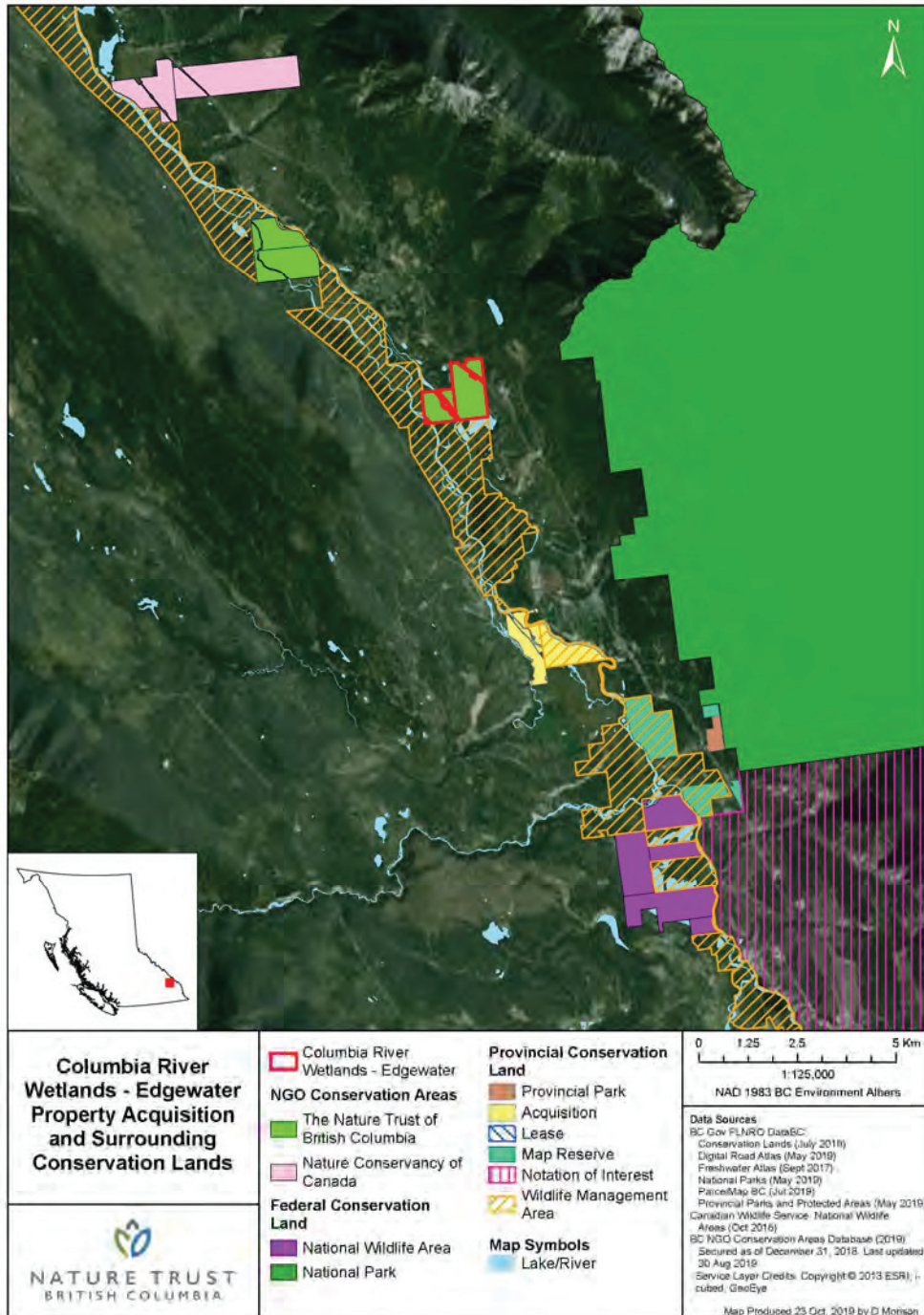
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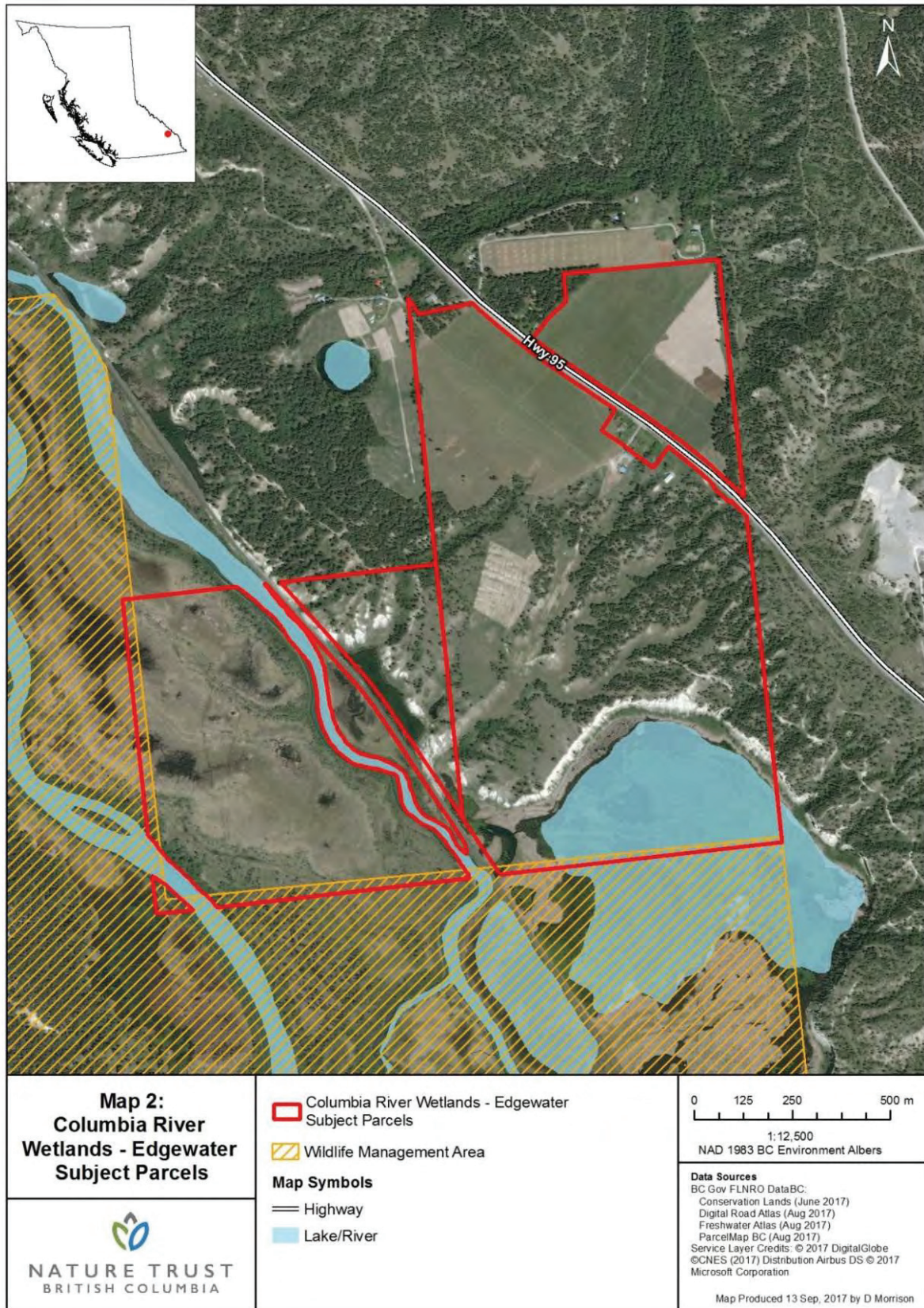
Funders	APPLICATION		FINAL REPORTING		Additional Comments
	Estimated Cash Amount	In-kind Amount	Actual Funds Received	Actual In-kind	
Denis & Rosemary Tegt		\$200,000.00		\$200,000.00	Split receipt donation via Environment & Climate Change Canada's Federal Ecological Gifts Program
Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program	\$3,150.00		\$3,150.00		Property Appraisal funded by FWCP via annual budget provided to the Kootenay Conservation Program
BCCF Land for Wildlife Funding	\$75,000.00		\$20,000.00		Funding provided by BC Conservation Foundation Land for Wildlife Fund
FWCP Land Securement Fund	\$300,000.00		\$400,000.00		Funding provided by Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (Columbia Region) - Land Securement Fund
HCTF Acquisition Fund	\$100,000.00		\$200,000.00		Funding provided by Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation - Habitat Acquisition Fund
HSP (SAR stream)	\$75,000.00		\$0.00		Not Applicable
CVLCF	\$400,000.00		\$400,000.00		Funding provided by the RDEK's Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund
Private Donations & Fish and Wildlife Clubs	\$86,832.00		\$39,042.45		Private donations and local Fish & Wildlife group donations (Lake Windermere, Canal Flats, Golden, Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund)
NHCP - Land Trust Conservation Fund	\$0.00		\$4,069.23		Funding provided by Natural Heritage Conservation Program administered by Wildlife Habitat Canada
EGP Land Acquisition Support Fund	\$0.00		\$9,801.23		Funding provided by Environment & Climate Change Canada's - Ecological Gifts Program Land Acquisition Support Fund
Total Amounts	\$1,039,982.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,076,062.91	\$200,000.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,239,982.00		\$1,276,062.91		

EXPENSES:									
Expense Items	Details (if applicable)	APPLICATION				FINAL REPORTING			
		Cash	In-kind	Total Budget	CVLCF Funding	Actual cash spent	Actual in-kind	Actual total budget	CVLCF Funding
Property Purchase at Fair Market Value (FMV)	Purchase Price of \$1,000,000	\$800,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$400,000.00
Property Appraisal	Completed by East Kootenay Appraisals (2017)	\$3,150.00	\$0.00	\$3,150.00	\$0.00	\$3,150.00		\$3,150.00	\$0.00
Property Management Plan	Plan Completed by Foul Bay Eco. Research Ltd. (2018)	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,666.00		\$6,666.00	\$0.00
Phase 1 Environmental Assessment	ESA Completed by Vast Resource Solutions (2018)	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,441.20		\$4,441.20	\$0.00
Start-up Costs	Includes staff time (Kootenay Region and Vancouver), signage, kiosk, travel costs, public parking area w/ fence, gate, walk thru, invasive plant treatments								
Property taxes - first year (exempt in future)	Taxation based on former farm status rate	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$22,532.13		\$22,532.13	\$0.00
Legal costs	Legal conveyance costs - McCarthy Tetrault	\$832.00	\$0.00	\$832.00	\$0.00	\$1,898.65		\$1,898.65	\$0.00
Endowment Fund (for future management)	Endowment is 20% of FMV	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,374.93		\$7,374.93	\$0.00
Goods and Services Tax (GST)	As a non-profit, NTBC pays half of 5% GST	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$210,000.00		\$210,000.00	\$0.00
		\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Total Amounts		\$1,039,982.00	\$200,000.00	\$1,239,982.00	\$400,000.00	\$1,076,062.91	\$200,000.00	\$1,276,062.91	\$400,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1,239,982.00				\$1,276,062.91			

**Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund
Final Report Appendices (Maps, News Release, Photo Gallery):**

Securement of Columbia River Wetlands Edgewater Conservation Property





Saving Land for Bears and Badgers

July 18, 2019

Cranbrook, BC— The Nature Trust of BC announces the protection of the Columbia River Wetlands - Edgewater property in the Kootenays.

Located near the community of Edgewater these conservation lands cover 423 acres (171.5 hectares) and feature outstanding habitat and connectivity for Grizzly Bears and American Badgers. They also provide winter range for Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer and Moose.

“The Edgewater property has incredible diversity, ranging from wetlands to grasslands and open forest habitats,” said Chris Bosman, Kootenay Conservation Land Manager for The Nature Trust of BC. “From the upper benches, the views across the Columbia Valley and up and down the Rocky Mountain Trench are stunning. As a multi-generational family ranch, the land has been well cared for over the years by a conservation minded family. The Nature Trust looks forward to carrying on the tradition of responsible land stewardship.”

This property will complement nearby Nature Trust conservation lands that are managed as part of the Columbia National Wildlife Area and Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area. An additional benefit for wildlife is that the Edgewater property adjoins the Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area which serves as significant migratory bird habitat for over 200 species.

“The Nature Trust of BC has been working in the Kootenay region for over 40 years,” said Nature Trust Director Bill Bennett. “As a volunteer Board member, I am proud of the many properties The Nature Trust has conserved for wildlife. As I look to the future, I am excited to be part of a dedicated team leaving a legacy for future generations in the Kootenays and across the province.”

The community came together in a big way to help The Nature Trust of BC protect the Columbia River Wetlands-Edgewater property. Key supporters of this project include the BC Conservation Foundation, Regional District of East Kootenay through the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund, Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program, Golden District Rod & Gun Club, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund, Lake Windermere Rod & Gun Club and the Canal Flats Wilderness Club as well as individual donors. The acquisition of this property included a generous landowner donation from Denis and Rosemary Tegart.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is a leader in land conservation in the province. We conserve and care for BC’s most critical natural habitats for vulnerable wildlife and plants. Since 1971 we have protected more than 175,000 acres (71,000 hectares) with our partners.

Media Contact

Robin Rivers, Communications Manager
The Nature Trust of BC
604.924.9771 or 1.866.288.7878
rrivers@naturetrust.bc.ca



Photo 1: Facing East, showing the impressive clay banks and slough which form part of the property (Graham Osborne)



Photo 2: Looking West, showing the clay bank, riparian and wetland habitat features of the property (Graham Osborne)



Photo 3: One of several smaller wetlands on the property (Graham Osborne)



Photo 4: Facing east, at the base of the clay banks, providing a unique perspective of the property (Graham Osborne)



Photo 5: Remnant grasslands exist on the property and contribute to its biodiversity values (Graham Osborne)



Photo 6: As a long-time ranch, parts of the property contain hayfields, which will continue to be cut by a local producer (Ian Moul)



Photo 7: There is one man-made wetland on the property; proof of the Tegar's strong and long-standing stewardship values (Ian Moul).



Photo 8: Badger burrows are found throughout the property demonstrating the high habitat capability on the property (Chris Bosman)



Photo 9 & 10: Grizzly Bears and Elk frequent the property (Denis and Rosemary Tegart)



Photo 11: The property has extensive irrigation waterworks, which will continue to function while water licenses will be maintained (Ian Moul)



Photo 12: The property contains several outbuildings. This barn provides habitat to several bat species, some believed to be endangered. This structure will remain; others will be removed in time (Ian Moul).



Photo 13: The property hosts the KCP Fall Gathering Tour Oct. 5, 2019, with the new public access area and info kiosk in the background (Chris Bosman)