



IMPACT REPORT

2024

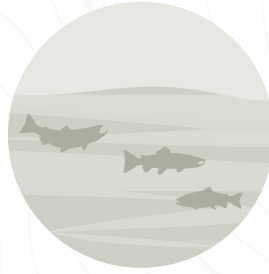
NATURE TRUST
BRITISH COLUMBIA



OUR IMPACT IN 2024



1,700+ acres
(688+ hectares) of land
conserved across
British Columbia



\$29,217,954
funds raised from
donors and partners



\$19,854,541
Total Fair Market
Value of lands
conserved in 2024



1 project
Enhancing Estuary
Resilience, endorsed
by the United
Nations' UNESCO
Ocean Decade



**10+ new
conservation
areas**
established



2021 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
2030 for Sustainable Development

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



LETTER FROM CEO

At the Nature Trust of BC we continue to be inspired by our mission statement to conserve BC's biodiversity through the securement, restoration, and management of ecologically significant lands. Every year begins with can-do optimism and the drive to achieve our land acquisition and fundraising goals.

I'm proud to report that 2024 was a remarkable year. Thanks to our donors, supporters, and partners, we met and exceeded our goals. We raised a record-breaking \$29.2M this year. These funds were used to purchase more than ten conservation areas encompassing over 1,700 acres, as well as stewarding and restoring sensitive ecosystems on our 500+ conservation areas across British Columbia.

Together, we helped make 2024 a win for nature.

2025 will again call on NTBC's drive and dedication. While we are on track for another record-setting year of conservation impact in BC, we face significant challenges in a landscape of economic and political uncertainty. We must match millions of dollars in

federal funds, we must purchase and protect more vulnerable habitats before they are lost forever, and we must move faster to save ecologically significant habitat even as land market values climb.

Before the end of this year we are committed to buying even more ecologically significant conservation areas to conserve and protect them forever. From rare, wild grasslands to mature coastal forests, the need to conserve these special places is more urgent now than ever.

We are grateful for your commitment to protecting nature, Your support for the work of the Nature Trust of BC will be a lasting legacy for future generations.

Yours with appreciation,

Dr. Jasper Lament
CEO, Nature Trust of BC



LANDS PROTECTED FOREVER IN 2024

OUR BIGGEST YEAR YET! With your support, The Nature Trust of BC protected more than 1,700 acres (688 hectares) of precious wildlife habitat across the province.

WEST COAST

1 Gwa'dzi Estuary | 2.5 acres (1 hectare)

Located adjacent to the 388-acre (157-hectare) Quatse Estuary Wildlife Management Area, this new conservation area protects sensitive estuarine ecosystems, with estuarine and saltmarsh vegetation indicative of a healthy restoring ecosystem. The land is a key area for the restoration of the Gwa'dzi River estuary to facilitate the reintroduction of tidal circulation and fish habitat to previously alienated portions of the estuary.

Species at risk found on or near this land include the threatened barn swallow and northern goshawk, as well as the special concern great blue heron and peregrine falcon.



2 Denman Island — Abbot/Benson Coastal Rainforest | 95.6 acres (38.7 hectares)

This conservation area protects young and mature forests interspersed with critical wetlands in the rare Moist Maritime Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic subzone. Protecting this land ensures a vital riparian corridor along Beadnell Creek, a class A salmon spawning stream, will remain intact forever.

Species at risk that rely on this land include the special concern band-tailed pigeon, evening grosbeak, and marbled murrelet, the threatened barn swallow and western screech owl, the blue-listed little brown myotis, and the red-listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.



**3 Kw'a'luxw (Englishman) River Estuary—
Shelly Road | 12.8 acres (5.2 hectares)**

The Nature Trust of BC has been working to protect the Kw'a'luxw River in Parksville-Qualicum for over 40 years — with these 13 acres at Shelly Road being the most recent addition. NTBC works closely with the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation for the management and long-term stewardship of the conservation complex.

Species that rely on these lands and waters include all five species of Pacific salmon, cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout, along with 250 other species such as black bear, cougar, river otter, Roosevelt elk, and deer.



**5 Cortes Island—Manson Bay Forest
35.6 acres (14.4 hectares)**

This conservation area protects sensitive forested wildlife habitat on Cortes Island, a jewel in the Discovery Islands. The land contains mature douglas-fir, western hemlock, and western redcedar forest with scattered veteran trees that are at least 200 years old.

Species at risk that rely on this land include the threatened barn swallow, as well as the band-tailed pigeon, common nighthawk, evening grosbeak, purple martin, olive-sided flycatcher, and northern red-legged frog, all special concern.



**4 Quennell Lake—MapleCross Forest
(Phase I) | 102.1 acres (41.3 hectares)**

This conservation area is the first acquisition in a two-phase project to protect more than 240 acres (100 hectares) of land that consists of the rare and vulnerable Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone — one of the most at-risk zones in British Columbia. This land and the subsequent phases are expected to contain a globally imperiled ecological community.

Species at risk found on or near this land include the threatened barn swallow, special concern evening grosbeak, horned grebe, and great blue heron *fannini* subspecies.



**6 Cowichan River Estuary—
Lochmanetz Road | 7.7 acres (3.1 hectares)**

This conservation area is an addition to the now 753.7-acre (305-hectare) Cowichan River Estuary conservation complex, which protects sensitive and critical estuarine ecosystems. Protecting this land has increased the connectivity and resilience of estuarine ecosystems and is a key area for the Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu Estuary Restoration Project and associated Indigenous food system revitalization project with Cowichan Tribes.

Species that rely on this estuary include the endangered black swift and sharp-tailed snake, threatened barn swallow, special concern horned grebe, evening grosbeak, short-eared owl, olive-sided flycatcher, and common nighthawk.



THE NORTH AND CENTRAL INTERIOR

7 Ferguson Lake — East (Phase II) 159.6 acres (64.6 hectares)

Located in Prince George, this conservation area protects wetland, riparian forest, and mixed forest ecosystem and expands the existing conservation complex to 395.4 acres (160 hectares).

The land's wetlands provide habitat, feeding, and breeding grounds for waterfowl and shorebird species like the hooded merganser, sandpiper, bufflehead, common loon, sandhill crane, snow goose, and more.



8 Cranberry Marsh — West 7.7 acres (3.1 hectares)

This conservation area contains wetlands and low shrub and grass ecosystems with pockets of forest. Now that this land is purchased, the total conservation complex is 882.2 acres (357 hectares), increasing connectivity for wildlife.

Species at risk that rely on this land include the endangered black swift and special concern western toad.



THOMPSON-OKANAGAN

9 Nighthawk Hill Grasslands 27.2 acres (11 hectares)

This essential wildlife corridor and biodiversity hotspot consists of rare, native grasslands — it provides unimpeded access from the South Okanagan Grasslands Provincial Protected Area to the Similkameen River.

This conservation area protects habitat for many birds at risk including sage thrasher, barn swallow, common nighthawk, yellow-breasted chat, and threatened Lewis's woodpecker, along with amphibians and reptiles such as western tiger salamander, great basin spadefoot, western rattlesnake, and Great Basin gophersnake.





KOOTENAY

10 Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor — Wycliffe Prairie | 445.3 acres (180.2 hectares)

This conservation area, near Kimberly and Cranbrook, protects rare native grassland, which covers 89 per cent of this conservation area. Now that this land is protected, the combined total of conservation land in the multi-partner Wycliffe Conservation Complex is more than 3,580 acres (1,450 hectares).

This land is a critical wildlife movement corridor that connects grizzly bear habitat and includes a Class 1 Ungulate Winter Range for mule deer, white-tailed deer, and elk.



12 Bummers Flats — MapleCross Benchlands 423.5 acres (171.4 hectares)

Situated above the Kootenay River floodplain, this conservation area is comprised of dry, open forest and grassland. Purchasing this land has expanded the existing conservation complex to 4,929.8 acres (1,995 hectares).

Species at risk that rely on this land include elk, grizzly bear, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and the endangered American badger.



11 Lower Wolf Creek | 422.6 acres (171 hectares)

Located at the confluence of Wolf Creek and the Kootenay River, this conservation area is a valuable stopover for migratory birds and contains diverse ecosystems including floodplain wetlands, riparian and dry forests, and grasslands.

Lower Wolf Creek contains designated critical habitat for the threatened Lewis's woodpecker. Species at risk that rely on this land include the endangered black swift, threatened barn swallow and bobolink, special concern grizzly bear, common nighthawk, evening grosbeak, long-billed curlew, western toad, and western painted turtle.





RESTORATION HIGHLIGHTS

WEST COAST

Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu Estuary Restoration

The Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) Estuary Restoration and Food System Revitalization Project is one of the largest restoration/revitalization projects ever to be completed on the coast of British Columbia. The project will restore 173 acres (70 hectares) of salt marsh habitat and re-establish natural estuarine processes by removing human-made barriers to marsh development and reconnecting freshwater channels to tidally influenced areas. Working with Cowichan Tribes Sul-hween (Elders) and the UBC Indigenous Ecology Lab, the Project will also revitalize the Quw'utsun (Cowichan Tribes) food system in the area with native food and medicinal plants where they once thrived in abundance.

Learn more about this project:
naturetrust.bc.ca/quwutsun-xwulqwselu-restoration



SOUTH COAST

Broom Bash

On Savary Island, the South Coast Conservation Field Crew has been working to restore the rare natural coastal sand dune ecosystems at Duck Bay on the Savary Island conservation area. Coastal sand dune ecosystems are relatively few within BC and are increasingly vulnerable to threats from development and invasive species like scotch broom.

For several years, our team has been working to remove scotch broom to restore this habitat for other, native species at risk to thrive, such as the contorted-pod evening primrose. This red-listed plant is at risk of extirpation in Canada. This year, in addition to removing scotch broom at Duck Bay, our crew found the contorted-pod evening primrose on the restoration site, a clear indication that the restoration actions are healing the coastal sand dune ecosystem.



THOMPSON-OKANAGAN

Antelope-brush Restoration

The Antelope-brush-Needle-and-thread grass ecosystem is globally imperiled and is provincially red-listed. It is one of the four most endangered ecosystems in all of Canada, with nearly all of this community occurring only in the South Okanagan. It supports 45 species that are listed by the federal Species at Risk Act.

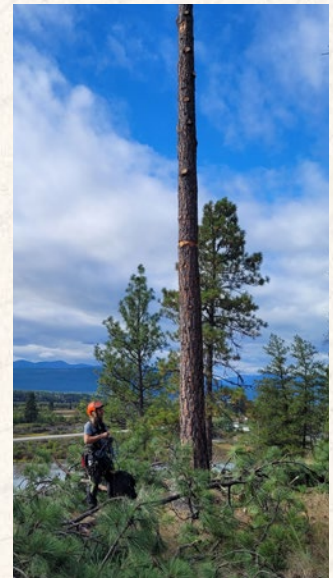
NTBC has been working to protect and restore antelope-brush since 1983; in the past few years, NTBC has teamed up with two Okanagan school districts to facilitate collaborative restoration projects. Starting in 2022 and continuing every fall, hundreds of school children head outdoors to take part in educational field programs to help in the conservation and restoration of endangered antelope-brush habitat. The programs provide a unique learning opportunity for students, giving them hands-on experience in scientific fieldwork, while teaching them about key environmental sustainability concepts such as biodiversity and connectivity.

KOOTENAY

Forest Thinning

In the Kootenays, The Nature Trust of British Columbia and its partners are boosting biodiversity by restoring and enhancing habitat through forest thinning. The new six-year project, known as the Bull River Grassland Corridor Habitat Enhancement Project, will help support a greater diversity of plant species, reduce wildfire risk, increase habitat quality and connectivity, and help wildlife thrive. Our team will be enhancing habitat using a variety of thinning techniques: mechanical harvest, which removes whole trees using heavy machinery, hand thinning, which reduces the density of young, ingrowing trees and low branches in the forest understory using chainsaws, and understory clean-up, which removes deadfall often through pile burning or chipping. All these techniques will help mimic historic open forest and open range habitat on the Bull River Wildlife Corridor, strategically opening movement corridors while leaving patches of higher density forests for wildlife cover.

The resulting restored landscape will have an increased habitat quality for the wildlife that need it most.





ESTUARY RESILIENCE

“ *Hitlatlaisan’s nalax galgapotla xan’s sas’am t’suxllama, hitluk;wine, dtluwida mayudtl ami. (Let us fix our world and work together for our children, grandchildren, and those unborn).*”

–KWAKIUTL PRAYER ON A PROJECT SIGN
COMMEMORATING GWA'DZI ESTUARY
RESTORATION PROJECT

Estuaries are the heart of coastal ecosystems, where rivers meet the ocean. These delicate but productive ecosystems comprise less than 3 per cent of BC’s coastline, yet estuaries and coastal wetlands support over 80 per cent of BC’s coastal fish and wildlife. Climate change is expected to significantly impact estuary ecosystems through rising sea levels, ocean acidification, temperature and salinity changes, and more. Estuary Resilience is a multi-year, highly

collaborative project that aims to improve estuary habitat and enhance the long-term sustainability and health of wild BC Pacific salmon fish stocks.

The Estuary Resilience project is built on strong partnerships between Coastal First Nations, non-governmental organizations, provincial and federal governments, and academic groups. Project partners are monitoring and researching resilience to sea-level rise and climate change using the Marsh Resiliency to Sea-Level rise (MARS) tool at 20 estuaries on Vancouver Island, the central coast and Haida Gwaii. With a combination of science and cultural knowledge and heritage, this project will facilitate several major, transformative restoration projects across the coast.



Learn more about the project
& explore impacts and results:
naturetrust.bc.ca/estuary-resilience



RESTORING BRITISH COLUMBIA'S ESTUARIES

In the past three years, we've performed restoration actions at the Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo), X̱wésam (Salmon), Gwa'dzi (Quatse), Kw'a'luxw (Englishman), and Quw'utsun/Xwulqw'selu (Cowichan/Koksilah) river estuaries.

These projects have focused on the restoration of tidal channels, estuarine habitat, and natural coastal processes by removing berms, dikes, and seawalls, breaching of roadways, constructing new channels, restoring estuarine plant communities, and installing habitat structures for fish and wildlife. These ecological restoration actions not only increase resilience to sea-level rise and restore fish and wildlife habitat, but also revitalize Indigenous food systems for communities, too.

ESTUARY RESILIENCE SYMPOSIUM

2024 marked the fifth year of Estuary Resilience.

To celebrate this accomplishment and discuss results and impacts, our partners gathered in person for a Celebration Symposium hosted by The Nature Trust and Snuneymuxw First Nation in February. With presentations, storytelling, and conversations, our partners reflected on the work we've done together to assess estuaries' resilience in British Columbia, and enhance the long-term sustainability and health of wild salmon.



UNITED NATIONS OCEAN DECADE

The ocean, climate change, and the resilience of coastal communities are closely intertwined. As such, the United Nations and UNESCO have declared 2021–2030 the Ocean Decade, which empowers communities, organizations, and governments to facilitate transformative ocean science solutions, connecting people and our ocean.

In 2024, the Estuary Resilience project was endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development as an action that will help unlock ocean-based climate solutions and support coastal communities. Our project was specifically endorsed under the Cultural Heritage framework as a project that addresses several Ocean Decade challenges.



2021 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2030

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

GALA

On October 3rd, 2024, The Nature Trust of BC welcomed over 300 guests to the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for our annual Gala. Hosted by Board Member Dr. Andrea MacLeod and auctioneer Tyler Olson, the evening raised an incredible **\$480,000** in support of our conservation work. The first \$100,000 was generously matched by the Krogseth Foundation, with all funds matched again by the Federal Government. A highlight of the night was a powerful panel discussion featuring team members from each of our regions. Thank you to our sponsors, auction donors, and supporters who made the evening such a success.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Vancouver Queer Birders: Surrounded by stunning mountain and estuary views, The Nature Trust of BC hosted a birding walk at our Squamish Estuary conservation area with Vancouver Queer Birders, a birding group for 2SLGBTQAI+ community members in the Lower Mainland. The group spotted a variety of species while learning about NTBC's habitat conservation efforts and how we protect stopover sites for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway.



World Rivers Day & Victoria Outdoor Show: Connecting with communities is a great way to engage with nature enthusiasts and this year we were delighted to attend two key community events: the Victoria Outdoor Show in May and World Rivers Day in Burnaby this September. Both events provided valuable opportunities to share our work protecting critical habitats across the South Coast and West Coast — from salmon-bearing rivers to estuaries and coastal ecosystems.



Brant Wildlife Festival: Each spring, the Brant Wildlife Festival celebrates the return of the Pacific Brant goose to the shores of mid-Vancouver Island during their incredible migration from Baja California to Alaska. This year we were proud to continue our support as a Herring-level sponsor and to host an estuary tour, sharing the importance of local conservation efforts.



Federation of Canadian Artists: The Beautiful BC Artist Spotlight, presented with the Federation of Canadian Artists, showcased stunning artworks from across the province. This exhibition offered fresh perspectives on BC's remarkable natural landscapes and highlighted the special places we strive to protect. Through this creative partnership, we celebrated the province's beauty and connected with new audiences, inspiring greater appreciation for conservation.





CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

In today's world, corporations play a crucial role in the pursuit of becoming "nature positive" — ensuring that British Columbia has more natural wealth by the end of the decade than it did at the beginning. This year, The Nature Trust was thrilled to partner many organizations, corporations and businesses to support biodiversity in British Columbia:

- Denman Island Chocolate
- Global Container Terminals
- Innergex
- Nature's Way
- Nighthawk Winery
- Sports Junkies Clearance Center
- Wild Goose Winery

NTBC joined forces with some of forces with a few of our partners, namely Nature's Way, Innergex, and GCT, for a series of impactful hands-on stewardship events. From willow staking and invasive species removal at our Addington Point conservation area, to native species planting at Camp Slough, to a beach clean-up at Boundary Bay, these activities brought new audiences into the field and offered a tangible look at the restoration work we do across the province. These partnerships are a vital way to build connections while protecting and restoring critical habitats.

“ I'm incredibly proud of our team's continued participation in these initiatives and the positive impact we are making in our community. By working side by side on shoreline cleanups, we not only help to restore our natural spaces but also build connections across the community.”

—BEN HAWK, VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS, GCT DELTAPORT



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	\$20,206,613
Investments	\$56,278,420
Capital assets	\$2,049,323
Properties	\$167,434,598
TOTAL	\$245,968,953

LIABILITIES

Current	\$562,096
Deferred revenue	\$18,231,155
Net Assets	\$227,175,702
TOTAL	\$ 245,968,953

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS **\$34,314,473**

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

In 2024, The Nature Trust of BC secured \$20,382,380 in property holdings and spent a further \$4,174,743 on land management. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed an incredible \$29,217,954 to The Nature Trust of British Columbia during the year.

We were also able to increase our net assets by \$34,314,473, while contributing \$2,786,377 to our land management fund.



THANKS TO YOU —

WE RAISED MORE MONEY TO PROTECT AND RESTORE BC THAN EVER BEFORE!

We couldn't have had our biggest year yet without you. Supporting The Nature Trust of BC means you're a part of an incredible network of passionate individuals dedicated to protecting the natural treasures that make this province so special.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:




- Every donor who generously contributed to protecting and restore vulnerable ecosystems across British Columbia
- 650+ new donors who joined our Nature Trust of BC family
- 100+ members of The Arbutus Circle — a special group of donors that gives monthly
- First Nations partners across BC
- The Government of Canada
- The Province of British Columbia
- Local and regional government partners across BC
- The North American Wetlands Conservation Act



naturetrust.bc.ca

Photo: Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor — Wycliffe Prairie by Chris Bosman.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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