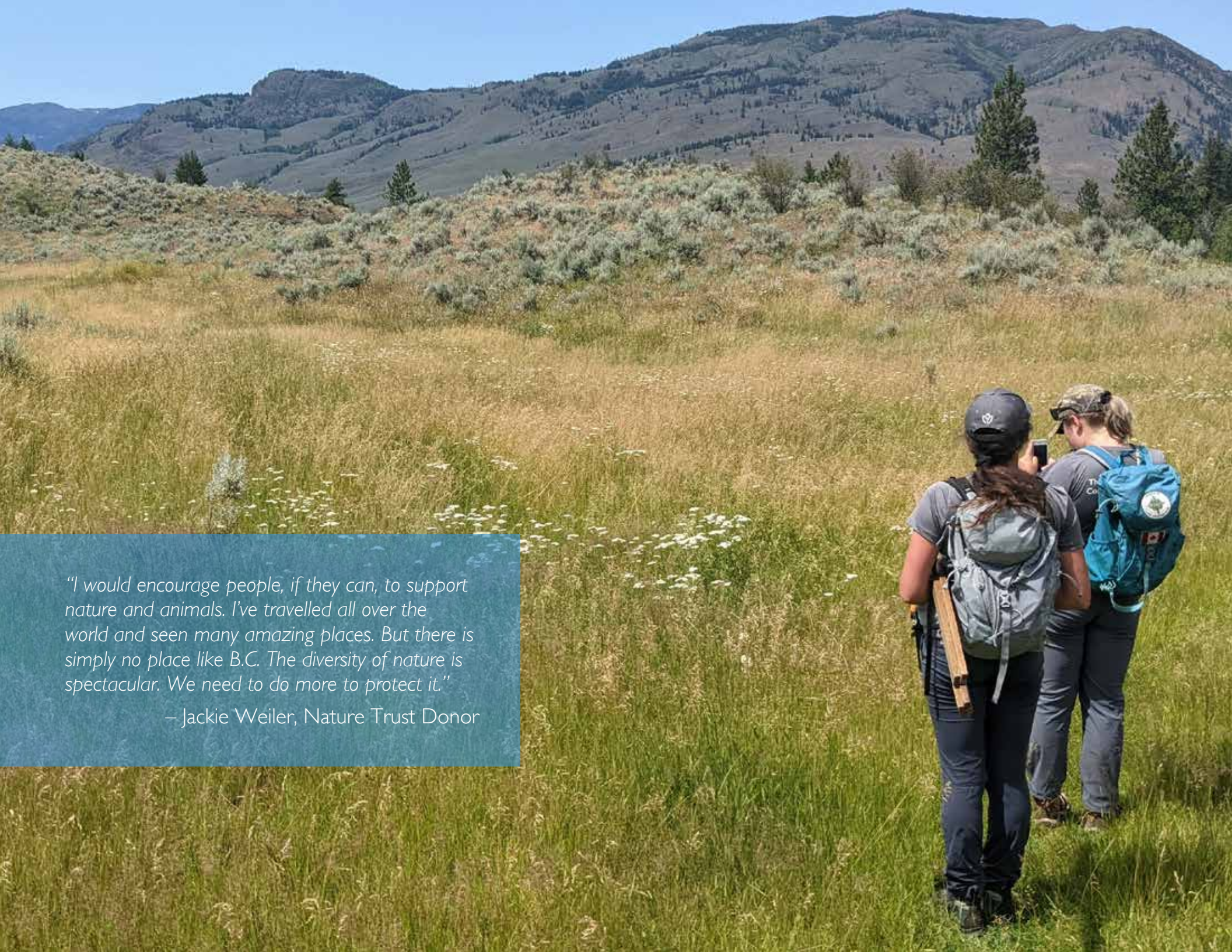




ANNUAL REPORT  2022

THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A photograph of two hikers standing in a vast, open field of tall grass and wildflowers. The hiker on the left is wearing a grey t-shirt, dark pants, a grey backpack, and a dark cap. The hiker on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt, dark pants, a blue backpack, and a cap. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grass and small white flowers.

"I would encourage people, if they can, to support nature and animals. I've travelled all over the world and seen many amazing places. But there is simply no place like B.C. The diversity of nature is spectacular. We need to do more to protect it."

– Jackie Weiler, Nature Trust Donor



A pivotal time for conservation, globally and locally

Canada was centre stage in 2022 when the world met in Montreal for the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15), where there was acknowledgement that biodiversity loss and climate change are intertwined global crises.

As people look for solutions, there's a growing awareness of the important role that land conservation can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. As Chair of the Board, I'm proud of the active role we play as a leading non-profit in land conservation.

Our mission remains unchanged; dedicated to conserving biodiversity across this beautiful province we call home, with an emphasis on B.C. spaces at greatest risk of being lost forever. We are well positioned to support the COP15 landmark agreement, known as 30x30, aiming to protect at least 30 per cent of the planet's land and water by 2030.

Thanks to the tremendous effort of our team, we made significant strides toward that goal with a record-setting year in land acquisition, adding 10 properties – nine of which were supported in



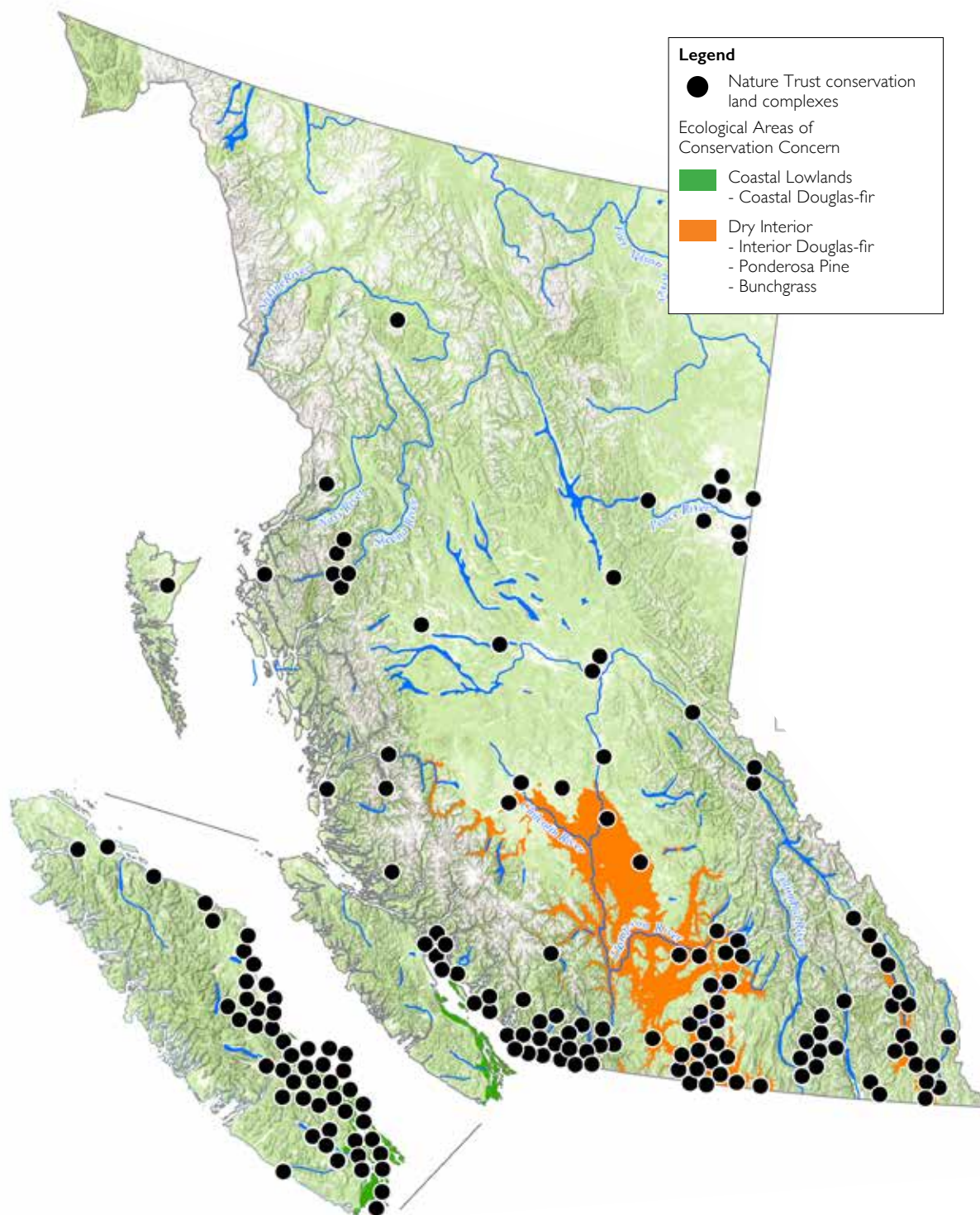
part by the federal government, to our treasury of protected spaces, totalling 180,000 acres. Alongside this, we are gaining recognition for major restoration projects such as our work on the Nanaimo River, removing a gravel bar to restore the flow of freshwater and enhance the estuarine ecosystem.

Our fundraising partnerships also expanded, including our U.S. giving program which allows The Nature Trust to benefit from a 3:1 match through our partnership with the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

In a pivotal year for conservation, both on a global scale with 30x30 and at local level right here, in B.C, I salute our staff and our volunteer Board of Directors. But most of all, I salute you – our donors, partners and supporters. Your support enables us to deliver our mission, and keep our wild spaces wild. We thank you and hope you will continue to support The Nature Trust and dedication to nature.

-

Emily Griffiths-Hamilton,
The Nature Trust of BC
Board of Directors Chair, 2021-2023



The Nature Trust of BC's mandate is:

- to secure habitats of high biodiversity values and at greatest risk of being lost; and
- to manage conservation lands as part of landscapes and ensure ecosystem resilience and connectivity.

Approximately 6% of the land base in B.C. is privately owned. This may seem like a small amount of land, but there is a disproportionate number of species and ecosystems at risk in the low elevation areas such as valley bottoms and coastal lowlands. These areas are where most of the private land is located and where most people live.

The Nature Trust plays a significant role in these areas by acquiring and managing private land for conservation. We work in partnership with other conservation organizations and various levels of government to put together land complexes that will conserve functioning ecosystems and ecological processes.

The priority regions (or biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification zones) for The Nature Trust are:

- Coastal Douglas-fir – ranked exceptional/high
- Bunchgrass – ranked high
- Ponderosa Pine – ranked high
- Interior Douglas-fir – ranked high/medium



Galiano Island - Qw'xwulwis - Cable Bay

26.5 hectares (65.5 acres) of ecologically diverse coastal Douglas-fir forest and over 1 km of pristine rocky shoreline on Galiano Island.

- This conservation area is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the Penelakut, Hwlitsum, and other Hul'qumi'num-speaking peoples
- This area is a haven for resident and migratory birds, intertidal life, fish and marine mammals



Park Rill Creek DL 1995

102 hectares (252 acres) added to the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch conservation complex, now spanning 8,222 hectares (20,317 acres)

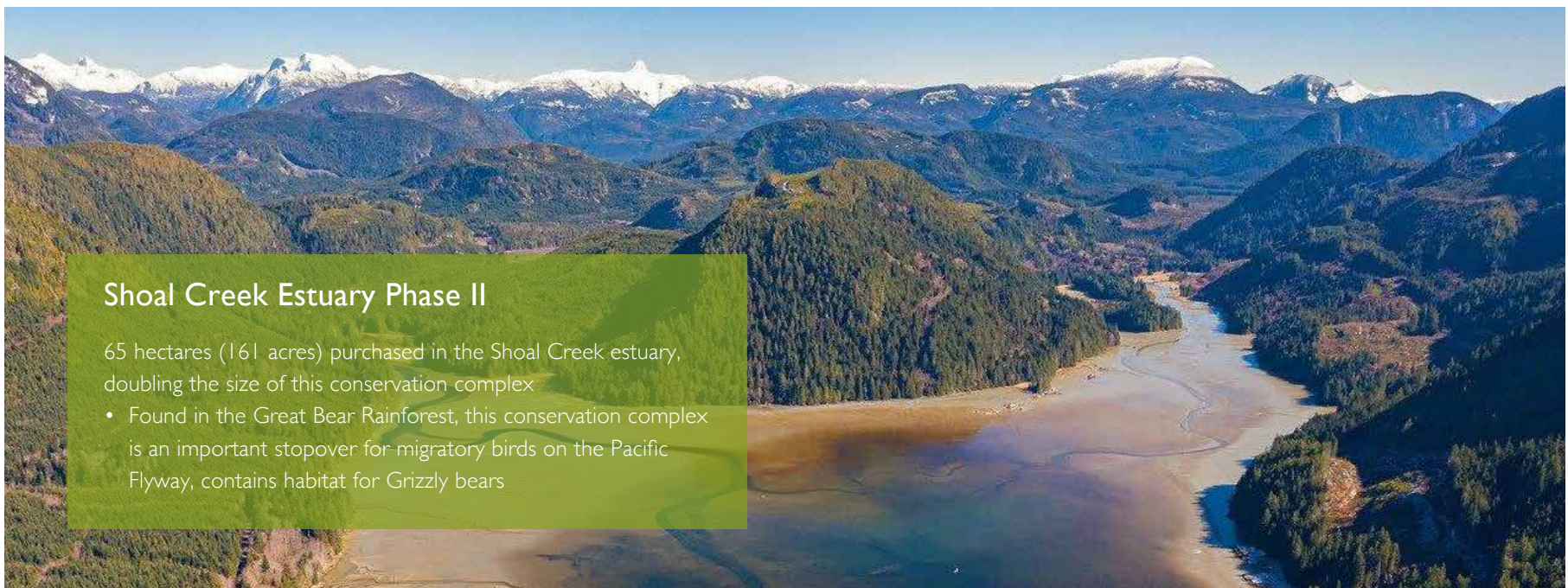
- This conservation area protects the South Okanagan's native grasslands, one of the rarest and most important ecosystems that cover less than 1% of B.C.'s land base



Park Rill Creek Infill West

65 hectares (161 acres) added to the White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch conservation complex, now spanning 8,222 hectares (20,317 acres)

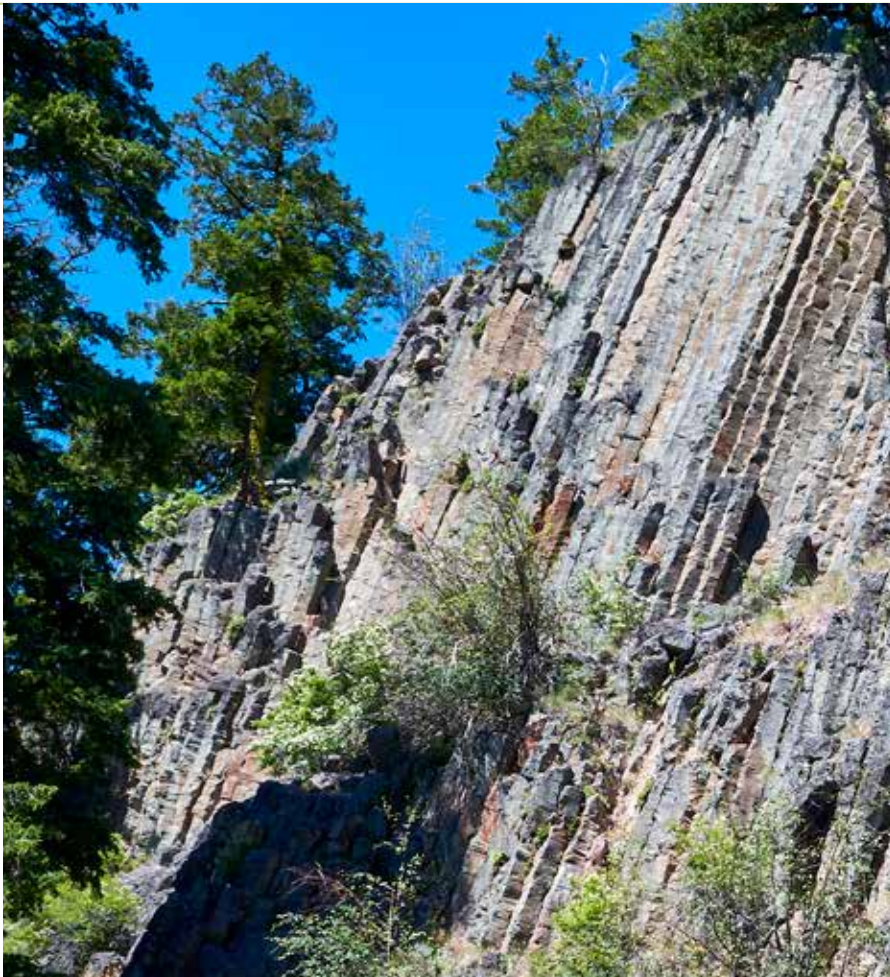
- One of the last remaining private properties in the White Lake Basin, this conservation protects essential contiguous natural grassland and its associated ecosystems



Shoal Creek Estuary Phase II

65 hectares (161 acres) purchased in the Shoal Creek estuary, doubling the size of this conservation complex

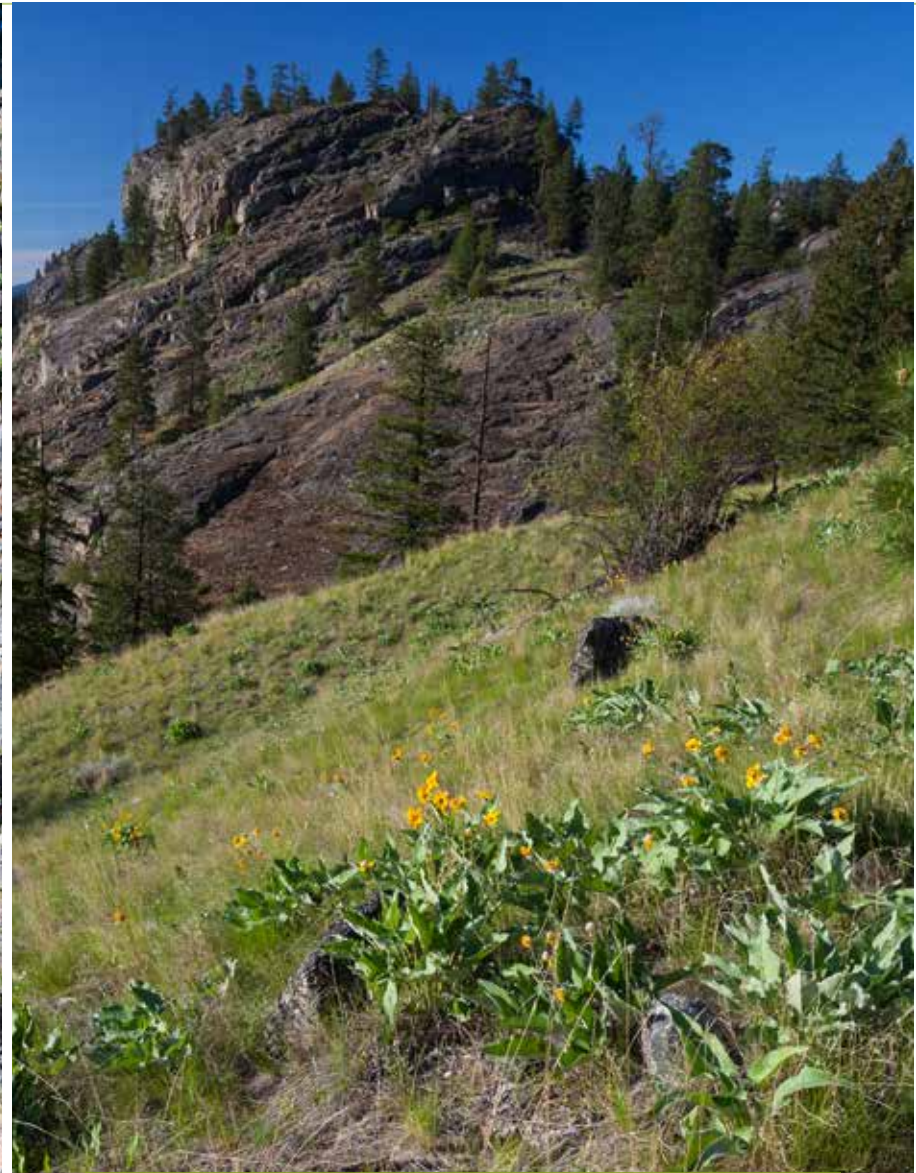
- Found in the Great Bear Rainforest, this conservation complex is an important stopover for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway, contains habitat for Grizzly bears



Keremeos Columns – MapleCross Grassland

194 hectares (479 acres) of historical and ecologically important grasslands in the Similkameen Valley, including the Keremeos Columns formation

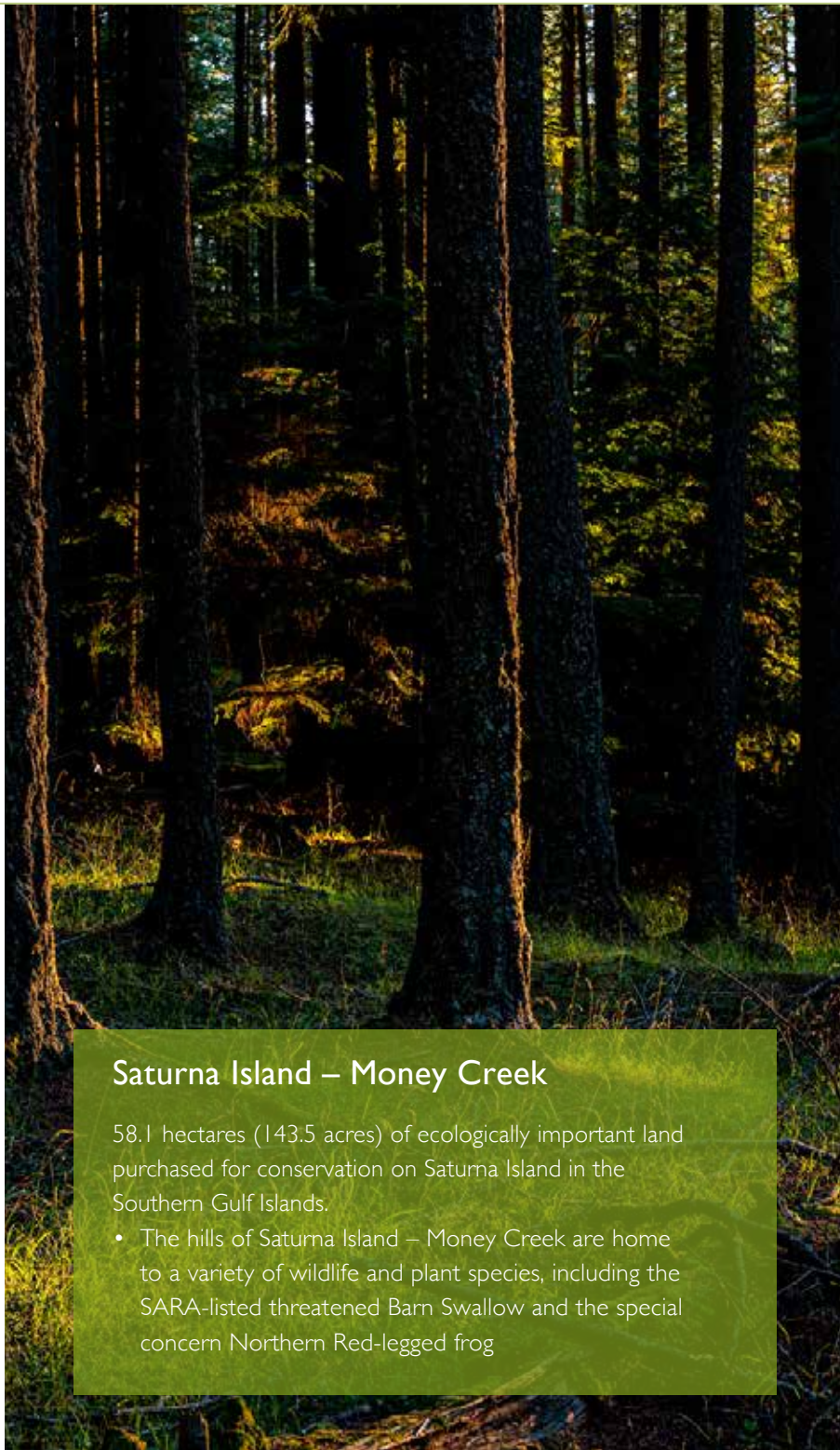
- This conservation area is located on the traditional territory of the Smelqmix and Syilx Peoples
- This area protects seven sensitive ecosystems and features habitat for a variety of at-risk species, including the SARA-listed Western Yellow-bellied Racer, Western Rattlesnake, Lark Sparrow, and Watson's Cryptantha



Skaha Lake Eastside

29.2 hectares (72 acres) added to the Skaha Lake Eastside conservation complex, south of Penticton

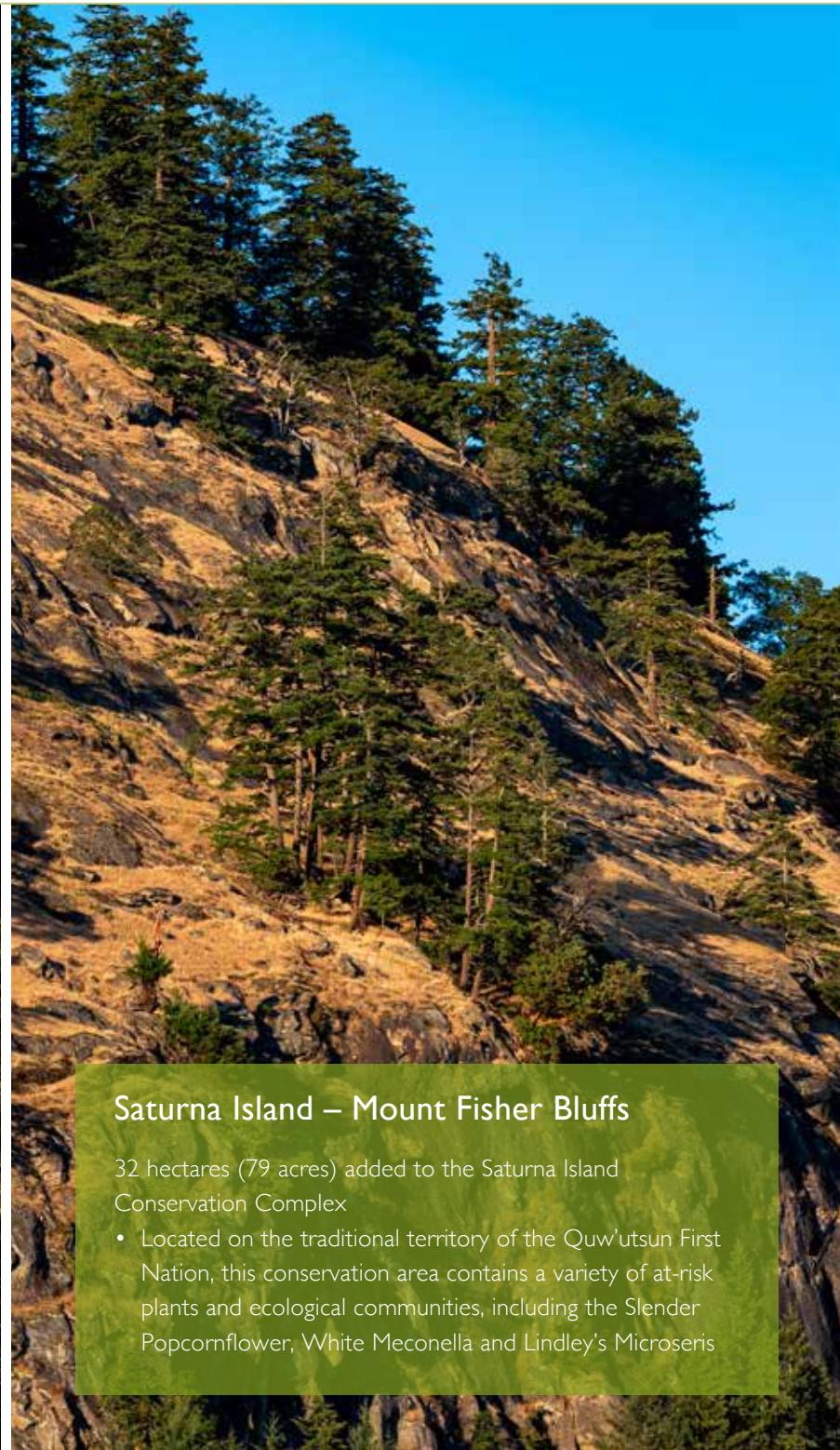
- This conservation area contains a variety of ecosystems, and adds important habitat for threatened Bighorn sheep for foraging, lambing, and escaping predators



Saturna Island – Money Creek

58.1 hectares (143.5 acres) of ecologically important land purchased for conservation on Saturna Island in the Southern Gulf Islands.

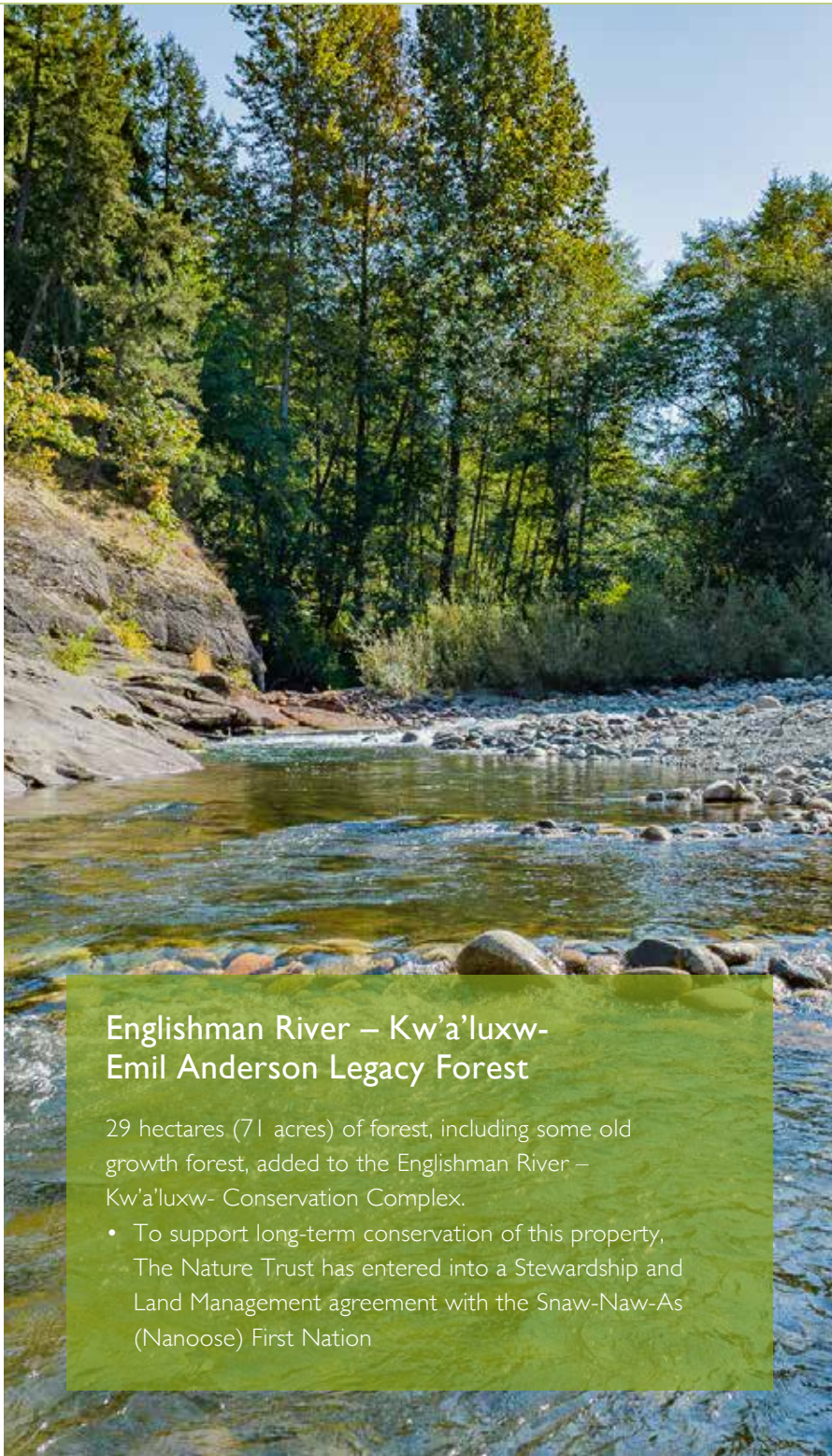
- The hills of Saturna Island – Money Creek are home to a variety of wildlife and plant species, including the SARA-listed threatened Barn Swallow and the special concern Northern Red-legged frog



Saturna Island – Mount Fisher Bluffs

32 hectares (79 acres) added to the Saturna Island Conservation Complex

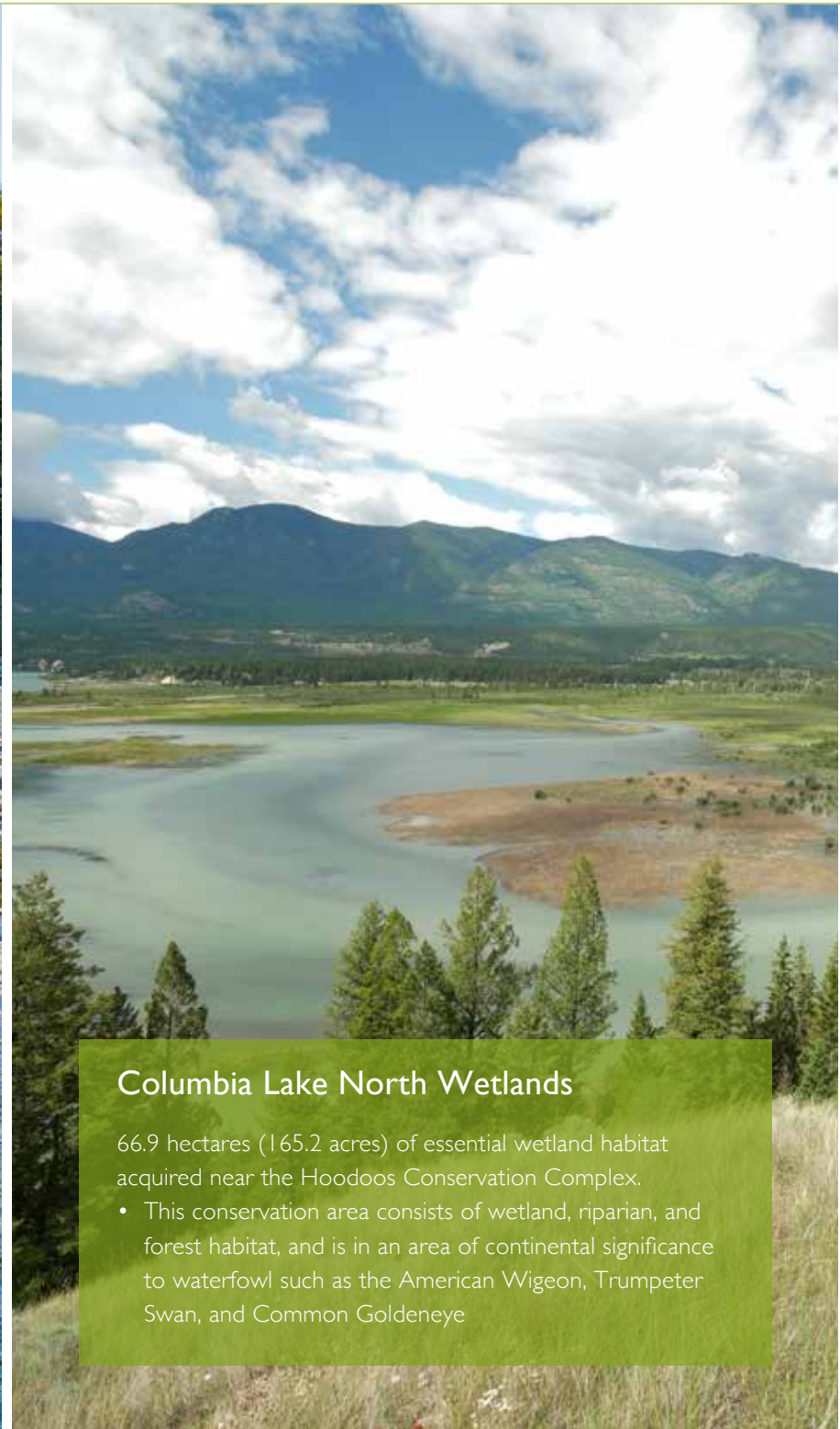
- Located on the traditional territory of the Quw'utsun First Nation, this conservation area contains a variety of at-risk plants and ecological communities, including the Slender Popcornflower, White Meconella and Lindley's Microseris



Englishman River – Kw'a'luxw- Emil Anderson Legacy Forest

29 hectares (71 acres) of forest, including some old growth forest, added to the Englishman River – Kw'a'luxw- Conservation Complex.

- To support long-term conservation of this property, The Nature Trust has entered into a Stewardship and Land Management agreement with the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nation



Columbia Lake North Wetlands

66.9 hectares (165.2 acres) of essential wetland habitat acquired near the Hoodoos Conservation Complex.

- This conservation area consists of wetland, riparian, and forest habitat, and is in an area of continental significance to waterfowl such as the American Wigeon, Trumpeter Swan, and Common Goldeneye

Banded Burrowing Owl Returns

The Burrowing Owl is a unique bird species in British Columbia. It is one of the smallest owl species in the world and they burrow in the ground – often in prairie gopher holes – rather than nesting in the trees. This species is Red-Listed in B.C. (SARA Schedule 1 – Endangered), with much of its population pushed out of the province due to habitat loss. Owl numbers have dwindled over the years, with its B.C. population limited primarily to the Okanagan.

Conservationists have taken notice. The Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC (BOCS) has been the leader in this field. Their team hatches and raises owls at specialized facilities in Kamloops, Port Kells and Oliver, which are then gradually released into the wild. The Nature Trust of BC partnered with BOCS in 2022, released four young owls on Nature Trust Conservation Areas.

The Nature Trust builds burrows for the owls on protected land. Our Okanagan Conservation Field Crew has maintained five burrows within the NTBC White Lake Basin Biodiversity Ranch by installing “soft release cages” that protect fledglings and allow them to imprint on the burrow.

One of the struggles with Burrowing Owl conservation is that the species is migratory, and individuals do not stay in their burrows for long before flying south. BOCS tags owls before they fledge and they have found that most birds only return as far north as the Northern United States, rather than returning to their original burrow. So, while conservation efforts have been successful at helping restore the overall population of Burrowing Owls, they have had little impact on B.C. owl numbers. Until now!

In May 2022, a wildlife camera captured an adult Burrowing Owl returning to a burrow near White Lake. This particular owl had been released from captivity on nearby Penticton Indian Band (PIB) land. Up to this point, no owls had returned to the Okanagan after being released on PIB land, making this a landmark occurrence for conservationists.

There is no guarantee that more owls will migrate to the White Lake Basin, but it is a sign of conservation success – a sign that the strategies being implemented to revitalize an endangered population are working. The ultimate goal of conservation is to see an at risk species bounce back.

Restoring populations of endangered species takes patience, persistence, and partnerships. We are thankful for the Burrowing Owl restoration efforts of the Penticton Indian Band and the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society. The Nature Trust’s ongoing efforts to buy, restore and manage habitat in the White Lake Basin are also making a contribution to Burrowing Owl conservation in B.C.



Katelyn Michaud



Jef Vreys

Nanaimo River Estuary Restoration

The Nanaimo River Estuary is the largest estuary on Vancouver Island and is rich in natural resources. It's utilized by all five of the Pacific Salmon species, over 200 species of birds, and various other wildlife like the American Black Bear. The Nanaimo River and its estuary are within the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN), who have sustainably harvested food and resources for thousands of years. However, European settlement introduced industrial activity and agricultural practices that disrupted the natural processes of the area.

Over the last few years, The Nature Trust of BC (NTBC) and our partners at SFN and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), have been working to remove and restore some of the historic anthropogenic features and industrial land uses that degraded the estuary, with removing three kilometres of agriculture berms, reconnecting tidal channels, and planting thousands of native plants to improve habitat.

Following three years of monitoring through our Enhancing Estuary Resiliency project, the Nanaimo River Estuary was identified as a top candidate for further restoration. A priority identified by SFN Elders and our restoration biologists was the removal of 8,000 m³+ of industrial gravel that created a bar along the main stem of the Nanaimo River; this reduced freshwater to most of the estuary, limited salmon migration routes, and decreased juvenile salmon rearing grounds. We also set out to build a new channel for freshwater to flow.

The fish window for this massive undertaking was short, with just one month of in-stream work. In preparation for the restoration, our staff and project partners were on-site daily for upwards of seven weeks. Fish salvages were conducted daily once channel construction began to ensure juvenile Salmon, Rainbow Trout, Stickleback, and other fish species were protected.

Nearing completion of the channel, a coffer dam was constructed to separate the main river from the newly excavated channel. This allowed the excavator to work in the channel to remove the final stretch of gravel and connect to the river.

With the channel now complete, we continue our monitoring work in the estuary, including monthly water quality surveys, fish and wildlife surveys, and annually assessing flow through the new channel. The project's next phase will include removing the stockpiled gravel, planting native species, and restoring the stockpile site.





Conservation Field Crews

In the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, excessive heat and wildfires, our 2022 Conservation Field Crews came back stronger than ever and took on some big tasks in each of our four priority regions of the province.

Each summer for the last 23 years The Nature Trust has hired university students, recent graduates and young people for our field crews. We provide training in First Aid, Bear Aware, ecological principles and monitoring techniques, so they can help tackle a wide variety of conservation and management projects on Nature Trust conservation areas on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan and the Kootenay.

In 2022, our crews restored wetlands in the Kootenay, enhanced Burrowing Owl habitat in the Okanagan, restored a portion of the Nanaimo River estuary on Vancouver Island, and tackled multitudes of invasive weeds on the South Coast – among other duties. The crews are our ambassadors, and in 2022 they engaged their communities and spread the word of conservation across the province.

The Nature Trust thanks Wheaton Precious Metals for title sponsorship of our field crews this year. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the Province of British Columbia and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, The Westminster Foundation, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada Summer Jobs (Employment and Social Development Canada), The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Jim Walker Youth Crew Endowment, The Tony Cartledge Fund, and other individual donors also provided funding for the 2022 Crews.



Okanagan Conservation Field Crew



Kootenay Conservation Field Crew



South Coast Conservation Field Crew



West Coast Conservation Field Crew



Annual Fall Gala

The Nature Trust of BC's annual fall gala returned in person on October 5 after two years of virtual events. We were thrilled to host our guests at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for dinner, live and silent auctions, and a little conservation magic.

Together we raised over \$1.5 million for the conservation of rare and endangered habitats in B.C. We honoured conservation champions Chip and Summer Wilson, and Mike Jacobs. And, we heard an update on our mission and success stories from CEO Dr. Jasper Lament.

A huge thank you to our sponsors, our auction donors and our campaign donors. You made this event a huge success.



Brant Wildlife Festival

The Brant Wildlife Festival is a spring celebration of nature and honours the arrival of the Pacific Brant goose. Each spring this small black goose travels thousands of miles from Baja California, Mexico to breeding grounds in Alaska stopping along the way to rest and feed on the shores of mid Vancouver Island.

The Nature Trust of BC coordinates this festival with the help of the local community. We returned to a live program in 2022 and hosted 12 events, including nature tours, bird identification courses, a local nature film festival, and our signature opening event, Lift Off.

This festival wouldn't be possible without the help of numerous community groups and supporters in the Qualicum Beach and Parksville area.

Englishman River – Kw'a'luxw – Emil Anderson Legacy Forest Unveiling

In 2022 The Nature Trust received an extraordinary gift from the Emil Anderson Group – 29 hectares of riparian forest to be added to our Englishman River – Kw'a'luxw conservation complex.



To support the long-term conservation of this property, The Nature Trust has entered into a Stewardship and Management Agreement with the Snaw-Naw-As (Nanose) First Nation. This agreement recognizes Snaw-Naw-As (Nanose) First Nation as a rights holder to manage their lands and resources, protect the cultural and ecological values of traditional lands, and improve stewardship of our forests with ecosystem-based land use planning.

This gift was marked with an unveiling ceremony on the shores of the Englishman River in September.

Nature Cleanups

Cleanups are a great way for people to come together, spend time in nature, get some exercise and help maintain ecosystems. We organize cleanup events on our conservation areas across the province. After a safety briefing, everyone puts on gloves, takes a bag and heads out to find garbage. It's

amazing what is collected: from the usual suspects such as styrofoam, plastic bags and pop cans to the surprises like picnic tables, car parts and duck decoys. Thousands of pounds of garbage was removed from Nature Trust conservation areas last year. We encourage everyone who visits our conservation areas to leave a light foot print and to take out what they bring in.





Financials

In 2022 we secured \$18,597,447 in property holdings and spent a further \$3,418,466 on land management. This would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our donors and partners who contributed \$24,973,759 to The Nature Trust of British Columbia during the year.

We were also able to increase our net assets by \$16,161,595, while contributing \$2,111,028 to our land management fund.

Summarized Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2022 and 2021	2022	2021
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash and receivables	4,484,688	7,649,242
Investments	45,098,801	46,635,391
Capital assets	2,018,502	2,038,759
Properties	141,644,467	123,047,020
	<u>193,246,459</u>	<u>179,370,412</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current	379,620	63,889
Deferred revenue	10,690,642	13,291,921
Net Assets	<u>182,176,196</u>	<u>166,014,602</u>
	193,246,459	179,370,412
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	20,820,000	22,774,541

This statement has been derived from the complete audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Estates

The Trustees of the Bloom
Canadian Alter Ego Trust 2020
Estate of Gilbert Sage
Joyce Davies Alter Ego Trust
Estate of Sheila Holland
Estate of Dorothy Anne Joplin
Estate of Michael Ross Curtis

Estate of Fritz Durst
Estate of Lea Galloway
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In Memory

John Amaral
Kathleen Gwen Aten
Leo Bauer
Joan Birks
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Blossom
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Wayne Weber
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James Donald (Don) Weir
Joan Wert





Douglas Fir Circle

The Nature Trust recognizes the individuals, foundations, community groups, First Nations, and governments who donate time and funds to help make our work possible. The Douglas Fir Circle recognizes donors who have supported us for 10 years or more and made a donation in 2022.

Cathryn Abbott & Scott Gilmore

Judith Albert

Lindsay Allen

Gary Anaka

Ron & Diane Anderson

Hisako Arai

Dr. Peter Arcese

Harold & Lydia Baumbrough

Angie Bearman

William Beaton

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Verena Blatter

Ellen Bond

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Christine & Alex Bos

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 Kenneth & Jennifer Yule
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Arbutus Circle

Donors who give regularly offer us the encouragement and financial support to continue our leadership in conserving critical habitat in B.C. The Arbutus Circle recognizes donors who supported us through monthly donations in 2022.

Douglas Fir and Arbutus Circle Members

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
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| Douglas Billington | Jodi MacLean |
| Glen Burgoyne | Ted Mason |
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 John & Nancy Woodworth Fund
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 Endangered Ecosystems Fund, held
 at Vancouver Foundation
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 Lisa Holland Giving Fund, held at Nicola
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 The Juel Fund, held at Nicola Wealth Private
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- Council of Haida Nation
- Cowichan Tribes
- Da'naxda'xw-Awaetlala First Nation
- En'owkin Centre
- Heiltsuk Nation
- Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations
- K'omoks First Nation
- Kwakiutl First Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Nuxalk First Nation
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Penticton Indian Band
- Shuswap Indian Band
- Snaw-naw-as First Nation
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
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- Westbank First Nation

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- BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
- BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- BC Parks
- Canada Summer Jobs (Employment and Social Development Canada)
- Canadian Wildlife Service
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- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
- The Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund Society

- American Friends of Canadian Conservation
- BC Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
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- Nanaimo & District Fish & Game Protective Association
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- Rocky Mountain Naturalists
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- Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhancement Society
- Savary Island Fire Department
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