

Backgrounder

The Nature Trust of British Columbia is a leading non-profit non-advocacy land conservation organization. It protects critical habitats for vulnerable wildlife, fish and plants across the province by buying ecologically significant land and then caring for it.

The Nature Trust of BC contributes to biodiversity conservation and improving the health of ecosystems. In turn, healthy ecosystems provide benefits such as clean water, mitigation of climate change, and improved human health.

Since its founding in 1971, The Nature Trust of BC has conserved more than 500 properties covering 178,000 acres (72,000 hectares) in B.C.

The Nature Trust of BC uses science-based criteria to evaluate the importance of potential acquisitions based on the ecological significance and costs associated with securement and management of the land.

The Nature Trust's conservation focus is on four priority areas based on the findings of *Taking Nature's Pulse*, an assessment of the status of biodiversity in B.C. The four areas are Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) zones considered to be of conservation concern and include

- Coastal Douglas-fir,
- Bunchgrass,
- Ponderosa Pine
- and Interior Douglas-fir.

These areas tend to be in valley bottoms where human population is concentrated. This explains why land acquisitions are concentrated on Vancouver Island, Lower Fraser Valley, South Okanagan and East Kootenay. But securing the land is only the first step.

Land management is a complex job. It involves landscape level management plans, habitat restoration, community education and on-the-ground work such as wildlife monitoring, invasive plant removal and access management.

The Nature Trust is a catalyst for conservation and works collaboratively through partnerships with other conservation organizations, stewardship groups, and various levels of government.

In order to accomplish its conservation goals, The Nature Trust of BC relies on the financial support of individual donors, corporations, family foundations, non-governmental organizations and all levels of government.

The Nature Trust of BC employs administrative and land management staff. A volunteer board of directors of renowned scientists and business leaders governs its activities and provides guidance. The Lt. Governor of B.C. is the Honorary Patron.