

*Prince Edward Island
Wildlife Conservation Fund*



Your Conservation Dollars at Work

Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund 2015 Annual Report

Prepared for the Province of PEI

By the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee

On behalf of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee, thank-you to all Islanders who contributed to this year's project funds: hunters, anglers, trappers – through their annual licence conservation fees – and vehicle owners who purchased Conservation Plates.

1. Wildlife Conservation Fund Background

1.1 History and Revenues for the Fund

In 1998, the Province created the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund out of annual revenues generated from a conservation fee charged for hunting, trapping and angling licences. The original purpose for the fund was to support a hatchery that could restock native fishes into Island rivers that were impacted by fish kills. The fund was administered internally through the Forest, Fish and Wildlife Division for several years.

In the early 2000's there was a call from the public to have the fund made arms-length from government and open to an application-based awards process. Hence, in 2006, a committee of volunteers was struck to consider applications and award funding based on project merit. A fee-for-service contract was established to cover the administration of the fund through a third party. Along with the drafting of terms of reference for the committee, this has allowed the fund to function with a certain level of autonomy.

In September 2013, an additional source of revenue for the fund was acquired through the sale of motor vehicle Conservation Licence Plates (described as Conservation Plates in this document).

Currently, 100% of the following fees go to the Wildlife Conservation Fund on an annual basis:

Conservation fee for hunting, angling and trapping licences: \$20 for adults, \$13 for seniors and free for youth under 16

Conservation Plates: \$10 annually per vehicle plate

1.2 The WCF Committee and Administrator

The Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee is composed of volunteers who are nominated by the public and/or associations representing the individuals that contribute revenue for the fund. They sit for a three-year term and can remain for two 3-year terms. Nominations are considered as seats are vacated and replacements are voted in by the existing committee members. Each committee member represents a user and/or interest group as follows:

Community	#Seats	Community	#Seats
Hunting	3	Province	1
Angling	3	Non-consumptive	1
Trapping	1	Biodiversity	1
Watershed Groups	1		
		Total Seats: 11	

In 2015, the Committee was made up of the following individuals:

Community	Representative(s)	Community	Representative(s)
Hunting	Duncan Crawford, Ken Gillan, Eric Shaw	Province	Brad Potter / Garry Gregory
Angling	John LeLacheur, Taylor Main, Scott Roloson	Non-consumptive	Beth Hoar
Trapping	Doug MacEwen	Biodiversity	Diane Griffin
Watershed Groups	Karen Rank		

In 2015, the administrator of the fund was Island Nature Trust. The committee elects an administrator and an auditor at the beginning of every fiscal year.

1.3 Terms of Reference for the WCF Committee

Since the arms-length committee was struck in 2006, the goals it must adhere to according to its terms of reference are:

- To ensure that monies are distributed to achieve long-term benefits to wildlife populations and associated habitats
- To encourage and/or promote sustainable use of wildlife resources on Prince Edward Island
- To ensure that the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund is accountable to those who contribute to it

To that end, the committee's mandate is:

- To develop criteria for the types of projects eligible for support from the fund and the level(s) of support that may be provided
- To identify and develop opportunities for non-consumptive users to make contributions to the fund
- To develop a standardized process whereby organizations may apply to the Wildlife Conservation Fund
- To establish funding priorities on an annual basis and develop a rating scheme whereby applications are ranked
- To receive and provide a fair review of applications to the fund in accordance with the established rating scheme
- To make funding decisions based on this review of applications
- To provide direction to the fund's administrator and oversee administrative activities
- To ensure fair and accurate accounting of revenues to and expenditures from the fund and report this to Government on an annual basis
- To encourage the protection and restoration of wildlife habitat
- To promote the sustainable use of wildlife resources in Prince Edward Island

2. WCF Awards for 2015

The committee considers applications twice each year, in the spring (February) and again in the fall (October). The projects must fall into one of the following categories:

- Habitat restoration or enhancement – must contribute to the improvement of wildlife habitat in river, upland or wetland ecosystems
- Natural areas – must contribute to the improvement or expansion of designated natural areas for wildlife in PEI
- Education – must contribute to a better understanding and/or appreciation of wildlife among a segment of the Island public
- Research and monitoring – must contribute to our knowledge of wildlife or wildlife habitat in PEI
- Other – must have value for wildlife or wildlife habitat in PEI

Other criteria used to evaluate the projects include:

- Must demonstrate direct benefit to Island wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Should be a strong communication or education component reflective of the public investment in the Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Presence of matching funds in the budget, both cash and in-kind
- Achievable within the stated timeframe
- Track record of the applicant (defined based on tracking notes of previous WCF projects from the group, using criteria related to timeliness of reporting, adherence to approved project budgets, adherence to WCF award conditions and success rates in achieving project goals)
- Demonstrable need for the funds
- For research projects, applicants must additionally attach the hypothesis, methodology, and a description of any practical applications resulting from the research

2.1 Projects Awarded Funding in 2015

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Habitat Restoration or Enhancement (Spring)		
Souris & Area Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation	Souris & Area Wildlife Stream Enhancement Project 2015	\$15,780.00
PEI Trappers Association	Stream Enhancement: Pisquid, Clark's Creek, Vernon River/Orwell Bay, Glenfinnan & Newtown Watersheds	\$15,200.00
Morell River Management Co-op	Midgell & Morell River Tributaries Enhancement Project	\$13,980.00
Central Queens Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation	Brook Trout Habitat Enhancement of Skye Brook	\$11,125.00
Kensington North Watersheds Association	2015 Fish Habitat Restoration, Tree Planting, and Silt Management	\$9,555.00
Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association	Aquatic Habitat Restoration Within the Bedeque Bay Watershed	\$8,030.00
South Shore Watershed Association Inc.	2015 South Shore Watershed Association Improvement Project	\$7,800.00
Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association	Winter River Wildlife Habitat Restoration	\$7,770.00
Richmond Bay Watershed Assoc. Inc.	On The Road To Recovery	\$6,000.00
Island Nature Trust	Building Better Nesting Opportunities for Farmland Birds	\$5,450.00
Trout Unlimited Canada – Prince County Chapter, Inc.	Wildlife Habitat Enhancement & Demonstration Site, Portage, PEI	\$5,400.00
Wright's Creek Watershed Environmental Committee	Development of a Charlottetown Area Youth Fishing Facility	\$5,090.00
Cornwall & Area Watershed Group	North River Watershed Habitat Restoration Project	\$4,000.00
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association Inc.	Long Creek Repairs & Restoration	\$3,940.00
Friends of Covehead–Brackley Bay	WCF & FCBB Working Together to Improve Access & Condition of Essential Wildlife	\$3,940.00

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
	Habitats	
Lot 11 & Area Watershed Management Group	Foxley River Restoration	\$3,730.00
West Point & Area Watersheds Inc.	Watershed Activities	\$3,520.00
Ellen's Creek Watershed Group Inc.	Sediment Pond restoration – Ellen's Creek	\$3,150.00
Wheatley River Improvement Group Inc.	WRIG Stream Habitat Enhancement & Riparian Assessment	\$2,910.00
Hunter–Clyde Watershed Group Inc.	Hunter–Clyde Watershed Project	\$2,850.00
Hillsborough River Association	East River Stream Enhancement	\$2,731.00
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Conservation Volunteer Events in PEI	\$2,692.00
Ellen's Creek Watershed Group Inc.	Brook Trout Habitat Restoration in an Urban Environment	\$1,750.00
Lot 11 & Area Watershed Management Group	Foxley River Re–Excavation of Sediment Trap	\$1,231.20
Lot 11 & Area Watershed Management Group	Enmore River Restoration Project	\$1,230.20
Roseville–Miminegash Watershed Inc.	Little Miminegash River Sediment Management	\$1,220.00
Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group	Stratford Watershed Improvement 2015	\$1,040.00
Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead Foundation	Construction of an Insect Hotel to Provide Habitat for Native Pollinators & Create Learning Opportunities for Site Visitors & Youth Campers	\$850.00
	Sub–total (Habitat, Spring)	\$151,964.40
Habitat Restoration or Enhancement (Fall)		
Souris and Area Branch of the PEI Wildlife Federation	Fish, Feathers, Foot trails & Outreach	\$7,800.00
	Grand total (Habitat)	\$159,764.40

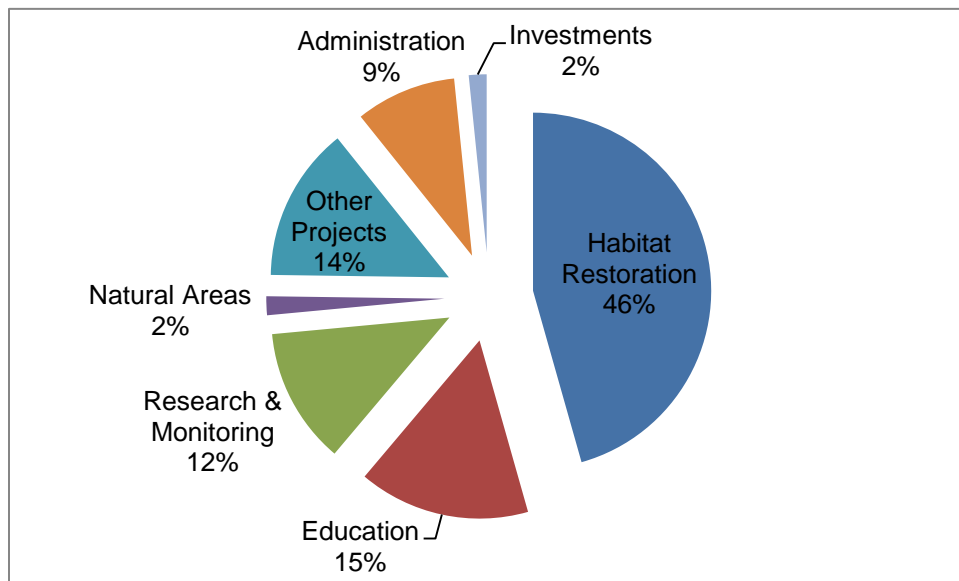
Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Education (Spring)		
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Project Webfoot Wetland Education Program	\$9,880.00
Ducks Unlimited Canada	PEI Youth Waterfowl Workshop	\$7,648.00
Sierra Club Canada Foundation (PEI Sierra Club)	PEI Wild Child Nature Immersion Program Phase 2	\$4,088.00
Western Region Sport & Recreation Council	Western Region Archery Club	\$2,475.00
Marine Animal Response Society	Enhancing Marine Mammal Response Capability in PEI	\$2,058.00
O'Leary Skeet Club	Introduce New Members to Skeet Shooting	\$870.00
Sub-total (Education, Spring)		\$27,019.00
Education (Fall)		
PEI Invasive Species Council	Increasing the Visibility of the PEI Invasive Species Council and the PEI Invasive Species Spotter's Network	\$6,320.00
Island Nature Trust	Protecting Habitat: A Take-home Message, Eastern PEI	\$4,732.00
Abegweit Conservation Society	Abegweit Palmu Nitap – Abegweit Salmon Friends Project	\$4,201.00
Sierra Club Canada Foundation (PEI Sierra Club)	PEI Wild Child Nature Immersion Program Phase 2	\$3,505.00
Wheatley River Improvement Group Inc	Winter Woodlot Tour 2016	\$3,252.00
Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group	Building EVEN Better Backyards for Birds!	\$1,750.00
Sub-total (Education, Fall)		\$23,760.00
Grand Total (Education)		\$50,779.00

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Research & Monitoring (Spring)		
Canadian Rivers Institute UPEI	Multi-year, Multi-species Assessment of Fish Passage at Two PEI Rivers	\$7,920.00
Souris & Area Branch of PEI Wildlife Federation	Research Project Examining Life History Parameters for a Genetically Unique Population of Atlantic Salmon in North Lake Creek, PEI	\$7,900.00
Bird Studies Canada	Maritimes Marsh Monitoring Program – Expanding to PEI (2015 Pilot Season)	\$3,900.00
Environmental Coalition of PEI	MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship) Mist Netting Stations	\$3,570.00
UPEI (Dr. Carolyn Peach Brown)	Voluntary Stewardship & Canadian Species at Risk Act: Exploring Landowners Willingness to Protect Species at Risk in PEI	\$3,000.00
PEI Invasive Species Council	The PEI Spotter's Network: Covering the Island Like Dew	\$2,187.50
Natural History Society of PEI (Nature PEI)	General Status of Species – Citizen Science Fills the Gaps	\$1,815.00
Kensington North Watersheds Association	Pilot Project to Establish a New Standard for Recording & Reporting Wildlife Observations	\$1,180.00
Sub-total (Research & Monitoring, Spring)		\$31,472.50
Research & Monitoring (Fall)		
UPEI Atlantic Veterinary College	Wildlife Care and Renovation of the Flight Cage	\$6,942.00
Bird Studies Canada	Engaging Islanders in the Maritimes Marsh Monitoring Program	\$2,000.00
Sub-total (Research & Monitoring, Fall)		\$8,942.00
Grand Total (Research & Monitoring)		\$40,414.50

Project Category, Successful Applicant	Project Title	Funds Awarded
Natural Areas (Fall)		
Island Nature Trust	Increasing Protection for the Malpeque Bay Important Bird Area	\$5,400.00
Grand Total (Natural Areas)		<i>\$5,400.00</i>
Other Projects (Spring)		
Abegweit First Nation, Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery	Salmonid Stock Enhancement Program	\$21,200.00
Island Nature Trust	Protecting Piping Plover	\$5,840.00
PEI Bait Fishers	PEI Youth Fishing Derbies	\$3,000.00
Kensington Police Services	Kensington Police Services Fishing Derby	\$1,500.00
Wellington Fire Department	Un-named	\$1,500.00
Sub-total (Other, Spring)		<i>\$33,040.00</i>
Other Projects (Fall)		
Abegweit Conservation Society	Abegweit Biodiversity Enhancement Hatchery	\$7,835.00
Cascumpec Bay Watershed Association Inc.	Profit's Pond Enhancement and Accessibility Project	\$4,466.00
Kensington North Watershed Association	Enhancing Ring-necked Pheasant Population on PEI	\$2,310.00
Sub-total (Other, Fall)		<i>\$14,611.00</i>
Grand Total (Other Projects)		<i>\$47,651.00</i>
GRAND TOTAL – ALL PROJECTS		\$304,008.90

3. Financial Summary for WCF in 2015

The PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund undergoes an independent audit of its accounts every year. The fund's fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31. Because there is a fall round of funding and the reporting deadline for those projects is March of the following year (with a 20% holdback on each project provided only upon receipt of the final report), there are some differences in expenditures between the project funds awarded each year and the audited statements. The following values reflect those of the 2015 project awards, administrative costs and investments.



Pie graph showing the proportion of available WCF funds spent on projects (by category), administration and investments

3.1 Funds Spent by Organizations for Project Delivery in 2015

In some instances, funds awarded were not all spent during the fiscal year. In those instances, funds must be returned and they can be made available for the next funding round. The following table summarizes the actual funds expended by category for projects awarded WCF funds in 2015.

Project Category	Spring Projects	Fall Projects	Category Totals
Habitat Restoration / Enhancement	\$133,744	\$7,800	\$141,544
Education	\$27,010	\$21,263	\$48,273
Research & Monitoring	\$29,385	\$8,942	\$38,327
Natural Areas	\$0	\$5,300	\$5,300
Other	\$31,240	\$12,301	\$43,541
	\$221,379	\$55,606	\$276,985

3.2 Revenues and Expenditures in 2015 (Bank Balance Values)

Revenues	
Bank balance January 1, 2015	\$140,964
Deposits from angler, hunter, trapper licence conservation fees	\$165,790
Deposits from conservation vehicle plates*	\$34,560
Returned project funds	\$14,106
Total revenues for 2015	\$355,420

*Note that this value represents the remainder of 2014 plate sales. The full amount for 2015 plate sales was not deposited in the WCF account until April 2016 & is therefore not shown here

Expenditures	
Project awards (including some holdbacks from 2014)	\$284,099
Administration (administrator's fee, meeting expenses, audit)	\$28,364
Investment in CDR (long-term deposit)	\$5,000
Total expenditures for 2015	\$317,463

3.3 Assets of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund in 2015

At the beginning of each year, the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund Committee estimates what funds it expects will be available during the year to award during the spring and fall application rounds. Every attempt is made to award as much of the available monies as possible, allowing for administration costs and the investment of some monies in deposit receipts.

The investment into deposit receipts began in 2009 and has occurred periodically since that time. The money invested represents funds that were awarded and returned at the end of some years (if the award recipients were unable to complete projects as proposed for a variety of reasons). The committee resolved to eventually build up the investment to a point at which roughly half of the average dollars awarded for projects in a given year were held as a contingency. In the event the income to the fund (hunting, angling, trapper licence conservation fees and vehicle conservation plate fees) was ever discontinued, this would allow the committee to award projects at a reduced capacity for one more year. While we hope that scenario never eventuates, it is prudent to have some funds in reserve.

The following table outlines the assets of the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund as of December 31, 2015.

Assets, 31 December 2015	
Cash (revenues less expenditures)	\$37,957
Value of deposit receipts / investments	\$99,410
Total assets	\$137,367