

# 2021-2022 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Canadian Wildlife Federation



CWF's strategic goals include: connecting Canadians to nature; sustaining and improving wildlife populations and habitat, and restoring and connecting wildlife habitat. Here are a few examples of our work towards these objectives during our 2021-2022 fiscal year.



## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

The Canadian Conservation Corps (CCC) is a three-part program that provides young adults 18 to 30 with a service learning experience that includes outdoor adventure, a conservation field placement and opportunity to develop an impactful service project in their home community. During the first quarter of 2022, 98 new CCC participants began the program and more than 400 alumni continue to engage in co-created volunteer service projects across Canada. Participants have conserved habitat, created opportunities for others to engage in nature and had direct experience in wildlife conservation. The CCC has engaged more than 139,778 people in community service projects to date. One participant described the program as “the best thing to ever happen to me. The people in it inspired me to become the best version of myself.”

[Learn more at CanadianConservationCorps.ca.](https://canadianconservationcorps.ca)

WILD Outside is an award-winning national leadership program for youth aged 15 to 18. This barrier-free program provides young people of varied backgrounds the opportunity for outdoor adventure like day canoe trips along with meaningful service learning based on discoveries made during the adventures. Currently in 14 communities across Canada, the program has attracted more than 1,250 participants. Together with more than 300 community partners, participants have contributed over 30,000 volunteer service hours to deliver community-based action projects.

[Visit WildOutside.ca to find out more.](https://wildoutside.ca)

*The Canadian Conservation Corps and WILD Outside are funded by the Government of Canada, as part of the Canada Service Corps.*



## GROWING BACKYARD HABITATS

CWF's Gardening for Wildlife program encourages people to transform home, school and community gardens into wildlife-friendly habitat. Supported with resources and information on making their gardens suitable for wildlife, participants can contribute to citizen science by documenting their garden visitors through iNaturalist. An online community allows people to learn and share. This program has been incredibly popular over the past two years. In the past year, more than 10,000 people took part in our online platforms to learn, in a structured environment, about wildlife-friendly gardening. Since October 2021, more than 2,000 new properties have been certified as wildlife-friendly.

[Get involved at GardeningforWildlife.ca.](https://gardeningforwildlife.ca)



## GIVING FISH SAFE PASSAGE

The British Columbia Fish Passage Restoration Initiative is hard at work restoring access to spawning and rearing habitats for fish. Coordinated by CWF, the goal of this province-wide collaboration is to restore connectivity of freshwater ecosystems and assess the effectiveness of established and emerging fish passage remediation techniques.

In British Columbia, there are an estimated 170,000 stream crossings, with over half expected to be closed-bottom structures that could pose a barrier to fish. To help determine which of the >92,000 crossings we should focus our efforts on, CWF has joined forces with First Nations, federal and provincial governments, NGOs, academic researchers and local communities to complete four watershed connectivity remediation plans that identify the barriers blocking access to the most habitat in each watershed. These plans will guide restoration efforts for Pacific salmon and steelhead in the Bulkley River, Horsefly River, and Lower Nicola River watersheds, and Westslope Cutthroat Trout in the Elk River watershed.

To date, we have restored access to 2,114,939 m<sup>2</sup> of habitat. That's about 51 linear km of habitat at 14 sites throughout BC. By opening up waterways fragmented by human activities, we give these fish the best chance to find conditions suitable for their survival.

**Learn more at [FishPassage.ca](https://fishpassage.ca).**

*This program is funded in part by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and British Columbia through the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund (BCSRIIF) and the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR).*



## CREATING THE GREAT CANADIAN POLLINATOR PATHWAY

Pollinator populations are on steady decline and one of the primary causes is the loss of meadow wildflower habitat. Rights-of-way like hydro corridors and roadsides offer a unique opportunity to convert these lands to pollinator habitat while reducing maintenance costs from the traditional mow and spray management. CWF initiated a rights-of-way restoration program in Ottawa in 2019 and has been expanding to other parts of the province. To date, 6.84 km<sup>2</sup> have been improved through on the ground implementation of restoration, achieving 94 per cent of our goal and 139 rights-of-way managers have joined the Canadian Chapter of the Rights-of-Way as Habitat working group. Lanark County, Hydro One, and the County of Lennox and Addington have committed to pollinator habitat restoration in 2021 to 2023.

*This project is supported by funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.*



## MAKING OCEANS SAFER FOR MARINE WILDLIFE

With only about 330 individuals left, North Atlantic Right Whales are one of the most endangered whales in the world. Unless immediate action is taken, they will go extinct in the next 20 years. The two greatest threats they face are entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes. With funding from the PEW Charitable Trust and Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk (CNFASAR), CWF has been working with fish harvesters to conduct at-sea trials of ropeless (on-demand) fishing gear. As of the end of 2021, more than 400 deployments of ropeless fishing gear systems had been completed and this work continues in 2022. CWF also continues its collaborative research with government, industry and academia on whale surveillance and movement models to better understand marine-space use by marine animals in high-risk areas. This research will help guide future ocean management decisions on the conservation of marine animals and the operation of commercial industries.

**For more information, visit [MarineActionPlan.org](https://MarineActionPlan.org).**

## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

CWF efficiency ratios were all well within guidelines of the Canada Revenue Agency.

Investments in charitable programs were \$21.6 million. This investment was used to strengthen programming in areas of freshwater habitat conservation, endangered species and large marine animal protection, education programming, pollinator habitat and other terrestrial conservation. CWF takes a balanced approach to resolving conservation challenges, including research to better understand how to be most effective in our programs, direct conservation programming, education to maintain public support for and active participation in conservation, and advocacy to shape national policy to benefit wildlife.

Our education programs help develop future conservation leaders by creating opportunities for youth to experience time outdoors, to learn about nature, and to do volunteer service to improve conditions for wildlife.

- 78% Charitable Programs
- 15% Fundraising Expenses
- 7% Administration Expenses

