

NEW BRUNSWICK WILDLIFE COUNCIL
PROGRAM UNDER THE WILDLIFE TRUST FUND
TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Purpose:

- 1.1 To provide funding to conserve, enhance, or create fish habitat.
- 1.2 To provide funding to enhance fish production and protection to meet the demands of the recreational fishery.

Principles:

- 1.1 The program will focus on conservation and/or enhancement of habitat for native species.
- 1.2 Project goals should achieve and sustain a net gain in fish production.
- 1.3 Retain, enhance or develop the quantity and quality of fish habitat to ensure the viability, diversity and geographic distribution of native species in New Brunswick.
- 1.4 Promote the retention or enhancement of fish habitat by increasing public awareness or changing public attitudes.
- 1.5 Projects and subsequent achievement assessments must be based on accurate, relevant information.

Guidelines:

- 1.1 Proposals will be ranked in priority from a provincial program perspective, and approved on a project by project basis, as funds permit.
- 1.2 Revenues are to be used primarily for expenditures on habitat retention, enhancement, and development projects.
- 1.3 Assessment of fish production and habitat conditions for project planning and evaluation is an important component of the habitat program and is eligible for funding.
- 1.4 Land acquisition for critical fisheries habitat or management programs may be considered. Candidate sites for acquisition should be unique situations or provincially important fisheries.
- 1.5 Research or investigational projects that will lead to enhanced fish production or protection are to be approved on a priority basis.
- 1.6 The factors and ranking for priority setting are:
 - a. Naturally reproducing stocks
 - b. Areas of high fishing demand
 - c. Areas with high natural potential for fish production.
- 1.7 Projects should be in those geographical areas that will provide the greatest benefits to the recreational fishery.
- 1.8 Development of public access sites for fishing may be acceptable. Selection of potential sites should be limited to those waters which support provincially important fisheries.
- 1.9 The Wildlife Council will review the Fisheries Development Program project objectives and funding and recommend projects and funding levels to the Minister.

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2. WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Purpose:

- 2.1 To provide funding to conserve, enhance, or create habitat for native wildlife.
- 2.2 To provide funding for programs and projects to ensure the well being and perpetuation of wildlife populations.

Principles:

- 2.1 The program will focus on conservation and/or enhancement of habitat for native wildlife.
- 2.2 To assure a habitat base to sustain the diversity and geographic distribution of wildlife in New Brunswick.
- 2.3 The program will implement inventory, restoration and re-introduction programs.
- 2.4 The program will foster public awareness and understanding of the status and needs of wildlife.

Guidelines:

- 2.1 Revenues are to be used primarily for capital expenditures on habitat conservation, enhancement and development projects.

- 2.2 Assessment of wildlife production and habitat conditions for project planning and evaluation is an important component of the wildlife program and will be eligible for funding.
- 2.3 Projects need to focus on long term conservation of high quality habitat, particularly that which is vulnerable.
- 2.4 Research or investigational projects that will lead to enhanced species production or protection are to be approved on a priority basis.
- 2.5 Joint venture and co-operative projects with private organizations, groups, individuals, educational institutions and other government agencies will be promoted.
- 2.6 The Wildlife Council will consider priorities relating to wildlife species and wildlife habitat requirements. The Council will advise the Minister on program priorities, species requiring support and suggest program implementation.

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3. TRAPPING PROGRAM

Purpose:

- 3.1 To provide funding for activities that will enhance humane trapping practices (education), maintain public support (information distribution), promote trap development and testing (research).

Principles:

- 3.1 Furbearing animals must be trapped in a humane manner in order to avoid unnecessary pain and suffering.
- 3.2 Harvest of this resource must be accomplished in a socially acceptable manner.
- 3.3 Technological advances and new devices that reduce pain and suffering will be promoted.

Guidelines:

- 3.1 Program administration for Humane Trapping will be jointly carried out by a Steering Committee appointed by the New Brunswick Trappers and Fur Harvesters Association and the Fish and Wildlife Branch of DNRE.
- 3.2 Project proposals received by the Wildlife Council will be submitted to:
Chairman, Humane Trapping Steering Committee

New Brunswick Trappers and Fur Harvesters Association
For review and comment.

- 3.3 Funds may be available for contracts to present trapper education courses, workshops and seminars; develop prototype traps; research and field testing of traps; and trap replacement.

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4. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Purpose:

- 4.1. To encourage conservation of wildlife species as functioning components of ecosystems and as a contribution toward the biological diversity of native species and habitats in New Brunswick.
- 4.2 To facilitate identification, conservation and recovery actions of native species at risk as a consequence of human activities.

Principles:

- 4.1 All citizens share a responsibility for the conservation of biological diversity.
- 4.2 Maintenance of biological diversity contributes to maintenance of critical ecological processes.
- 4.3 Conservation of species at risk is an integral component of the maintenance of biological diversity.
- 4.4 Population and habitat objectives to recover species at risk will be met through long-term actions supporting biological diversity on a landscape basis.

Guidelines:

- 4.1 Habitat projects designed to protect or enhance critical habitat for species at risk will be given priority.
- 4.2 Status reports on species at risk and identification of cause(s) of decline are eligible for funding.
- 4.3 Development of detailed recovery plans and the actual recovery work are encouraged.
- 4.4 Projects directed toward conservation or research of any wildlife species in New Brunswick is eligible for funding. Vulnerability of the species, level of risk to its habitat, and its role as an indicator of ecosystem function.

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5. CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

Purpose:

- 5.1 To provide funding for programs and projects that will initiate youth of New Brunswick to conservation and traditional uses of wildlife resources.
- 5.2 To provide funding for information programs for the general population on conservation, traditional use and protection of the resources.

Principles:

- 5.1 The program will present a balanced view on conservation and protection of fish and wildlife resources.
- 5.2 The program will be consistent with sound stewardship and sustainable use.

Guidelines:

- 5.1 Projects can be delivered in school or out in the natural environment.
- 5.2 Projects need to focus on a positive use of our resources.

5.3 Preference will be given to projects that can be used province wide.