



[Request a free 2019 calendar here.](#)

## Happy Holidays

Columbia Basin Trust Board and staff wish you a holiday season filled with warm memories and cherished moments. Enjoy photography from around the Basin with a 2019 desktop calendar...[full story](#)



## Spread the Spirit of Giving

'Tis the season for spreading good cheer and kindness, and for giving back. Basin food banks are working hard to assemble and deliver Christmas hampers to families in need. Join us in supporting our local food banks by donating or volunteering this holiday season...[full story](#)

## Creating Connections & Recovering Food

The Trust is seeking projects to address social isolation and increase food recovery. Join us **today and tomorrow** for the information sessions and submit your Expression of Interest by January 31, 2019...[full story](#)



## Growing Conservation

The Next Creek watershed within the Darkwoods Conservation Area is one step closer to being protected. The Trust is helping the Nature Conservancy of Canada to expand the existing protected area by 14 per cent, to nearly 630 square kilometres. [...full story](#)



## Benefits for Reptiles, Grizzlies and More

Twenty-nine projects focused on ecosystem health, climate change, water stewardship and environmental education and more are helping to strengthen environmental well-being...[full story](#)



## Attend #BCTECHSummit

Basin-based tech companies can receive \$1,000 to attend #BCTECHSummit. The two-day event showcases BC's vibrant technology industry, builds cross-sector opportunities for businesses and explores the latest ideas and innovations fueling our economy locally and globally. Apply by January 18, 2019...[full story](#)

## Events & Deadlines

**January 25-26**  
[Trust Board of Directors Meeting - Montrose](#)

**Deadline: January 31**  
[Environment Small Grants](#)

**Deadline: January 31**  
[Social Small Grants](#)

**Deadline: January 31**  
[Social Connection and Food Recovery Expressions of Interest](#)

**Deadline: Various Dates**  
[Community Initiatives and Affected Areas Program](#)

**September 12-14, 2019**  
[Columbia River Basin Transboundary Conference](#)

[Go to events page.](#)

## CONTACT

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info@cbt.org  
ourtrust.org

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# Get Your 2019 Desktop Calendar

News: November 30, 2018



The Trust's 2019 desktop calendar showcases the beauty and wonder of the Columbia Basin through photos taken by residents from around the Basin.

If you live in the Columbia Basin and would like to receive a free calendar, please complete the request [form](#) or call 1.800.505.8998 .



## The Spirit of Giving

BASIN WIDE, NON-PROFIT, COMMUNITY

### Food Banks Embody the Spirit of Giving—All Year Round

Across the Basin, people in communities of all types—big, small, urban and rural—use the services of the region’s 31 food banks. These may be run by the communities themselves, local churches or service organizations. They may have paid employees or not. But they do have several things in common: the critical role of volunteers, love of community, dedication to helping others and vital importance to those that access them.

The Trust recognizes how essential food banks can be in ensuring the well-being of residents and communities. To that end, we support food banks in various ways, from providing funding so they can implement projects, to helping the organizations themselves become more efficient and effective through our Non-profit Advisors Program. Plus, every December the Trust gives a little bit extra to every food bank to help with the holiday rush.

# Two New Funding Opportunities for Social Projects

News: December 11, 2018



The Trust released two Expressions of Interest (EOI) today seeking community projects to address social isolation and increase food recovery. There is \$300,000 available for each EOI. Successful proponents will develop, implement and evaluate proposed projects and share learnings with key Basin stakeholders. An information session about each opportunity will be held next week.

The **Social Connections Initiative EOI** is seeking projects that will connect residents across all ages and stages of life who are experiencing social isolation with their neighbours and community. Full details about the opportunity and the **December 19 and January 15 information sessions** can be found [here](#).

The **Basin Food Recovery EOI** is seeking projects that will help reduce food waste by redirecting healthy food to Basin residents facing significant barriers to accessing nutrition, especially children and youth. Full details about the opportunity and the **December 20 and January 16 information sessions** can be found [here](#).

The EOIs will support community projects across the Columbia Basin. Eligible proponents include registered non-profits, public organizations, municipalities, regional districts and Indigenous organizations delivering services in the Trust [region](#).

The deadline to submit is January 31, 2019.



# Darkwoods Conservation Area to Grow

News: December 19, 2018



Photo: Bruce Kirkby

## *The Nature Conservancy of Canada receives \$650,000 from Columbia Basin Trust*

A large tract of protected lands stretches between Nelson and Creston, including areas managed by the Province of British Columbia and the Darkwoods Conservation Area, owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). Yet one area within Darkwoods—the Next Creek watershed—remains unprotected. This is about to change, as NCC is one step closer to purchasing the land with \$650,000 in support from Columbia Basin Trust.

Once the purchase of the Next Creek area is complete, it will increase the overall size of Darkwoods by 14 per cent, to nearly 630 square kilometres. Combined with the other protected lands between Nelson and Creston, the network of conservation lands and protected areas will total about 1,100 square kilometres. Conserving large tracts of land with a wide variety of connected habitat types is beneficial for wildlife, as well as water quality, and has other ecological values. In 2008, the Trust and several other organizations helped NCC purchase the Darkwoods Conservation Area. This was the largest private land acquisition for conservation ever undertaken in Canada, and still is.

“Securing this land for present and future generations of Basin residents will protect its current ecosystems, help prevent further deterioration and introduce restoration and enhancement,” said Johnny Strilaeff, Columbia Basin Trust President and Chief Executive Officer. “This will have significant benefits for many species, including species of concern like whitebark pine, grizzly bear and wolverine.”



The Darkwoods expansion project is part of a \$25-million initiative to increase NCC’s conservation impact in the Canadian Rockies region. Recently the governments of Canada and BC announced a contribution of \$14.65 million to this initiative, which will support the acquisition of the Next Creek area in Darkwoods. NCC is actively fundraising to fulfill its goal and complete the expansion of Darkwoods.

“Conserving the Next Creek watershed and expanding Darkwoods represents the fulfillment of a conservation vision that started over a decade ago,” said Nancy Newhouse, BC Regional Vice President, Nature Conservancy of Canada. “We are grateful for the continued support of Columbia Basin Trust. Their clear commitment to conservation has helped to make a real, on-the-ground difference to the people, wildlife and ecosystems of the Columbia Basin region.”

Since 1998, the Trust has helped land trusts secure over 1,000 square kilometres (105,892 hectares) of land for ecological conservation purposes. Through the Trust’s Environment Strategic Plan and Columbia Basin Management Plan Strategic Priorities, the Trust has committed to strengthening ecosystems. One of the ways the Trust is doing this is by continuing to contribute to land securement for conservation purposes, alongside its Environment Grants and Ecosystem Enhancement programs. Learn more about the Trust’s efforts to conserve and enhance the natural assets of the region at [ourtrust.org/environment](http://ourtrust.org/environment).



Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit [ourtrust.org](http://ourtrust.org) or call 1.800.505.8998.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is the nation’s leading not-for-profit, private land conservation organization, working to protect our most important natural areas and the species they sustain. Since 1962, NCC and its partners have helped to protect more than 1.1 million hectares (2.8 million acres), coast to coast, with more than one quarter of that area in British Columbia.



# Reptiles, Grizzlies and More to Benefit from \$1 Million

News: December 10, 2018



*29 projects receive Environment Grants from Columbia Basin Trust*

There are many ways to support a healthy and diverse environment, from restoring habitat to educating schoolchildren about ecosystems. Columbia Basin organizations will be taking on 29 projects like these with support from over \$1 million in Environment Grants from Columbia Basin Trust.

“Our Environment Grants provide the flexibility to support a wide range of projects focused on ecosystem health, climate change, water stewardship and environmental education,” said Tim Hicks, Columbia Basin Trust Senior Manager, Delivery of Benefits. “We’re honoured to be supporting these varied activities that are helping to strengthen environmental well-being in the Basin, and recognize they couldn’t be accomplished without the hard work that groups and organizations put into developing and realizing them.”

At Box Lake, near Nakusp, the Okanagan Nation Alliance will add basking sites for blue-listed painted western turtles, which need to bask in the sun to regulate their body temperatures and properly digest their food. Floating basking logs will be anchored in the water, away from motor boats, predators, humans and other disturbances.

“ʔarsikw (western painted turtle) is an important part of Syilx culture,” said Lisa Wilson, Natural Resources Manager. “Syilx people have a sacred responsibility to care for the land and all living things. The number of ʔarsikw is low in Syilx territory and it is hoped this project will be a step toward helping it maintain its place on the land.”

Another recipient is the Silver City Trap Club near Trail. Its location is home to reptiles like rubber boas. The club is going create reptile habitat by replanting the area, adding large rocks and woody debris, and constructing rocky shelters, known as hibernaculum, where the reptiles can take refuge over the winter.

“Our hope is to rebuild and enhance the habitat while also making an opportunity for long-term data collection and an opportunity for public interaction with reptiles,” said project coordinator William Chapman. “Due to the nature of the club, activity on the property will always be limited, so the club serves as a low-impact sanctuary in an otherwise busy corridor of human activity.”

The Rocky Mountain Trench Society in the East Kootenay will be implementing three projects to enhance and maintain habitat for animals like Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, elk, deer, the blue-listed Lewis woodpecker and American badger. These will take place in the southeast Basin on Hatchery Ridge, North Waldo and Sheep Mountain. The project will be carried out in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

“Grassland and open forest are major contributors to our region’s exceptional biodiversity,” said Marc Trudeau, Society Coordinator. “At Hatchery Ridge, sheep movement has become difficult due to thick timber that has not been able to thin itself naturally through wildfire. Slashing winter travel corridors will improve line of sight for predator avoidance and increase habitat connectivity, leading to safer travel over a larger area of winter range.”

To help both grizzly bear populations and local food producers, Sanders Environmental Services will educate farmers and residents on grizzly bear safety and how to reduce conflicts. It will cost-share the installation of electric fencing to protect livestock and crops from bears, and provide workshops on effective electric fencing designs and what to do if you encounter a grizzly bear.



Project coordinator Gillian Sanders said, “There is a real, tangible social cost to living with bears, and the idea behind this project is to create a win-win by sharing this cost with farmers. The project will help people prevent bear conflicts, which can be stressful and expensive, while keeping the bears out of trouble.”

See the complete list of approved projects at [ourtrust.org/environmentgrants](http://ourtrust.org/environmentgrants).

Supporting healthy, diverse and functioning ecosystems is one of the Trust’s 13 strategic priorities. Learn more about the Trust’s other environmental efforts, including its Climate Action Program and Ecosystem Enhancement Program, at [ourtrust.org/environment](http://ourtrust.org/environment).



# Get \$1000 to Attend 2019 #BCTECHSummit

News: December 12, 2018



*Interested in attending British Columbia's largest annual innovation event? Apply now to receive support from Columbia Basin Trust.*

The [#BCTECHSummit](#) is a two-day event that showcases BC's vibrant technology industry, builds cross-sector opportunities for businesses and explores the latest ideas and innovations fueling our economy locally and globally. It is the place for connecting industry, government and research under one roof to do business.

Hosted annually by the BC government and Innovate BC, the #BCTECHSummit brings together technology leaders, industry executives, investors, senior government officials, researchers and students to connect and share insights, experiences and opportunities. It takes place in Vancouver on March 11-13, 2019.

Read the fine print and apply online at [ourtrust.org/techsummit](http://ourtrust.org/techsummit) by midnight Friday, January 18, 2019.

