

Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND FUNDING INFORMATION

Canadian National Railway Company (CN) is actively working to recover fish populations affected in the Cheakamus River following a derailment and spill of sodium hydroxide in August 2005. Recovery activities are detailed in the yearly Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Plan and include monitoring to follow recovery of species through the years and active enhancement activities to increase fish populations and shorten the recovery period.

Included within CN's overall recovery plan is the Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund which provides a funding source for community and stewardship groups in the area to actively participate in recovery efforts. This funding is available for any group, association, agency, university or committee which would like to undertake enhancement, restoration, assessment or education activities on the Cheakamus River from the Daisy Lake dam to the Squamish Estuary.

Requests for project funding will be reviewed by the Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC) and those projects meeting the eligibility criteria and deemed to be beneficial to recovery of affected species or showing other strong attributes such as partnership or capacity building will be reviewed prior to approval. The CERTC is comprised of representatives from CN Environment, District of Squamish, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Environment, and the Squamish Nation.

Funding applicants are urged to consult available reports and information on the CERTC website to assist in identifying those species deemed as being affected by the spill. Projects targeting recovery of *priority species including chinook, steelhead, char and sculpin* will be rated higher than projects targeting other species.

Funding applicants with questions about project eligibility are encouraged to submit letters of intent to the CERTC, outlining project objectives, techniques and funding partners. Where feasible the CERTC will endeavor to answer questions about project eligibility, provide suggestions to funding applicants as to how the submission can be strengthened and suggest additional partnering opportunities with other organizations or agencies

Application Deadline: Applications will be accepted at anytime, however applicants are encouraged to submit completed forms by February 15 and October 15 to coincide with other funding application deadlines [e.g. Bridge Coastal Restoration Program (BCRP), Pacific Salmon Foundation Community Salmon Program, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF)]. The fund has an established limit of \$400,000 per year from 2007 to 2011. Funds that are not apportioned for funding in Year 1 (*i.e.* 2007) of the program may not be carried over into subsequent years.

Types of Projects Supported By the Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund

In addition to our own work, CN believes in supporting recovery of the Cheakamus River through community-based and stewardship volunteer initiatives. All projects supporting the recovery of affected species in the Cheakamus River from Daisy Lake dam to the Squamish Estuary that meet the eligibility criteria will be considered. Projects deemed to be beneficial to recovery of priority species will be given the highest rating. Projects designed for stock assessment or to answer 'knowledge gaps' will also be considered but cannot form more than 20% of available project funding in any one year of the program. Physical enhancement projects providing benefits to priority species will be given preference.

Project activity types include:

- Habitat creation or rehabilitation;
- Stock rehabilitation;
- Habitat assessment;
- Stock assessment;
- Education and awareness; and
- Community stewardship projects.



Eligibility Criteria

CN reserves the right to reduce or otherwise limit the amount of funding provided to individual projects at its sole discretion. The following criteria must be met for funding to be approved:

- Projects must support the recovery, enhancement, or rehabilitation of **the Cheakamus River between Daisy Lake dam and the Squamish Estuary;**
- Projects must be carried out in the **Cheakamus River, its tributaries or the Squamish Estuary;**
- Applicants/funding recipients should include a **volunteer component or funding partner** to their organization **and** to the specific project;
- Proponents are encouraged to identify project partnering with regulatory agencies, non government agencies (NGO's), and/or qualified professionals to ensure project feasibility requirements are met;
- Projects must include required **permits and approvals where applicable** from property owners, agencies and governments;
- Applicants are encouraged to provide detailed project submissions; and,
- Applicants requesting project endorsements should **clearly identify funding from other sources.**

Exclusions

- Ongoing expenses, events, fundraisers, and long term projects are not considered for funding.
- Project management and coordinator wages are not considered for funding; however, fees for technical or professional skills are acceptable.
- Members or persons directly related to a member of the applicant group may not be eligible for any funding for any service including technical or professional services.

Assessment and Scoring Procedures

All funding requests will be screened and prioritized by CN and CERTC. Timing of any funding approval is contingent on review by CN and CERTC. Suitable projects meeting the eligibility criteria will be reviewed and scored by the CERTC based on a variety of factors which could include but may not be limited to:

- Species targeted by project activities (projects that provide immediate benefit to priority species will receive the highest consideration);
- Projects to monitor abundance or recovery of affected species will not constitute more than 20% of the total funding available in any one year of the funding program;
- Feasibility of the project, as determined by information provided by the applicant or identified by the project review committee;
- Identification of contributing partners (i.e. financial or professional contribution) and/or community engagement; and,
- Funding requests from organizations with demonstrated experience in the project field.

Organizations may consult CERTC members for project partnering and submission of funding applications. CERTC members will be required to abstain from voting on project funding applications submitted by any organization to which they belong, have any affiliation or have had any prior involvement in the preparation of the application.



Additional Information

LETTER OF INTENT: Applicants are encouraged to provide a letter of intent to CERTC outlining their project ideas for review of applicability. Passing applicability does not guarantee a successful application, however a successful letter of intent may increase the chances of funding approval.

PROJECT SUBMISSION: Applicants are encouraged to provide detailed project submissions, however all pertinent project information, including budget, must be contained and submitted within the official CN Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund application form in order to be considered.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION: All applicants will receive a letter of notification of decision.

1. Approved – project meets the eligibility requirements and is well designed and planned.
2. Conditionally Approved – project requires minor modification before being approved
3. Not Approved – project did not meet the eligibility requirements

COMMUNICATIONS: CN requires that contributions made by CN be acknowledged on project site signage, in outgoing communications, newspaper articles and at any events highlighting your project.

If you have any questions or require assistance please contact:

comments@certc.ca

or

Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund
c/o Cornerstone Planning Group
Consultation and Communications Manager
22 – 1551 Johnston St.
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