



Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund

Background

Grasslands are rare, unique, life-sustaining ecosystems. More than 30% of BC's threatened or endangered species depend on grasslands for their survival. BC's grasslands represent less than 1% of the provincial land base and one of Canada's most endangered ecosystems. Native grasslands provide critical habitat corridors for dozens of migratory species that move between northern and southern latitudes of North America. Historically, many of these grassland ecosystems occupied more of BC's land base.

However, with urban expansion, other development activities, and agricultural use, native grasslands have become significantly diminished. The challenge is to balance the conservation of critical wildlife habitat in the remaining native grasslands with ongoing activities of sustainable resource use and development, along with processes such as climate change. It is necessary to gain a better understanding of how the land can be managed to address this challenge.



The Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund, established by The Nature Trust of BC in May 2001, honours two of Canada's most celebrated conservationists and past Board members (Dr. Bert Brink and Dr. Alastair McLean) who devoted much of their lives to conserving BC's native grasslands.

The Nature Trust of BC continues to accept donations for the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund, so that we can continue to award projects that help us gain a better understanding of native grassland management.

HOW TO APPLY FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Project Application Information

The **objective** of the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund is to promote research, ecosystem restoration and other stewardship activities that will assist in the management of the land, plants, and animals that rely on BC's native grasslands.

Funding Availability

This fund is awarded on a biennial cycle. Available funding in 2026 is \$5000. With this level of funding, it is anticipated that only one project will be awarded in 2026.



Eligible Projects

The project must be located within native grassland ecosystems in BC. Proponents may be individuals, conservation organizations, public agencies, academic, or research entities. Applications must demonstrate how the project meets the evaluation criteria.

Projects more likely to receive funding will be related to:

- Enhancing critical grassland habitats for plants and wildlife, especially those found in the CDF, BG, PP, and IDF biogeoclimatic zones
- Demonstrating how best to use sustainable resource management and land-use practices so that grasslands and species that rely on them flourish
- Identifying practical management considerations and/or recommendations for, or effects of management activities on native grassland ecosystems
- Refining or developing best management practices to better conserve and/or enhance native grassland ecosystems

Activities associated with the following categories will be considered for funding:

- Scientific research
- Inventory and assessment
- Enhancement or restoration
- Evaluation and monitoring
- Study design or planning

Examples of activities not acceptable for funding support include:

- Administrative costs for individuals or organizations
- Compensation for individual “losses” attributed to the conservation of grassland ecosystems
- Promotion of private sector business opportunities
- Post-secondary tuition or course fees

Evaluation Criteria

- Achieves the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund’s objective
- Addresses a need or problem related to native grassland management
- Identifies tangible outcomes or deliverables and is realistic in scope within project timelines
- Based on sound biological principles
- Conforms with established practices, legislation and policies
- Complements work of other agencies and organizations or is being conducted in demonstrated partnerships with other groups, where possible
- Experience, knowledge, and competency of the applicant
- Completeness and quality of the application
- Provides good value for the outcome

Although not a requirement, **bonus points** will be given to projects that include The Nature Trust of BC’s conservation areas. Please contact us to aid in identifying locations that may fit with your research project or visit our webpage for an interactive map of our conservation areas.

Application Requirements



Applications should be no more than **2500 words** and include the following **3 sections**:

1. Project description and rationale

Describe why this project is necessary and its relevance to the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund's objective, the project's objectives, anticipated outcomes and deliverables, timeframe, description of work plan and/or methodology, citations and references (if applicable).

2. Project location

Include a legible map with the location of the project and identify specific boundaries where possible.

3. Budget

Identify proposed itemized expenditures of fees and disbursements, contributions by the proponent and/or other partners and whether this funding is confirmed, and amount requested from the Brink/McLean Grassland Conservation Fund for a particular activity or activities.

Applicant Credentials (additional information, which is **not** included in the 2500 word limit)

- Qualification materials (e.g., resumes of key individuals involved in the project).
- Letter(s) of support, if applicable.

Complete copies of the application package are required upon submission.

Submission Deadline

Applicants are encouraged to contact Leanna Warman (Conservation Science and Planning Manager) at The Nature Trust of BC to discuss their project and its eligibility for funding support.

There is one submission date for funding applications for the year. Please provide a **complete application** by email to **Leanna Warman** on or before **20 February 2026**.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia

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Review Process

Applications will be reviewed and awarded by The Nature Trust of BC staff based on the evaluation criteria. Awarding of project funding support will be announced by 16 March 2026. Recipients will be recognized in The Nature Trust of British Columbia's media outlets.

The Nature Trust of BC reserves the right not to award all or part of the available funding in any particular year.