



Parks 100 Conservation Events Fact Sheet

As part of Parks 100, BC Parks is providing funding for a variety of conservation events that highlight conservation work taking place in provincial parks and protected areas.

Ecological Reserve Warden Day



Ecological Reserve Wardens are volunteers that serve an invaluable role in the long-term protection of ecological reserves. As part of Parks 100, BC Parks is facilitating *Ecological Reserve Warden Days* highlighting ecological reserves and wardens across the province. The goal of Ecological Reserve Warden Days is to inform members of the public about ecological reserves, their role in the parks and protected area system and the special nature of a particular reserve. Events could focus on various activities:

- Educational field trips
- Inventory
- Monitoring
- Creating display on an ecological reserve and then attending other community events such as farmer's markets, environmental fairs, etc.

BC Parks staff and/or ecological reserve wardens can create an event to highlight a specific ecological reserve. The goal is to include the public in the activities of a warden and inform them about how important volunteer wardens are to the continued conservation of these special areas. Preference will be given to event proposals that occur in ecological reserves that are appropriate for public access and relatively close to developed areas, in order to make events more accessible to the public.

Science in the Park



MOE /MRNO staff and partners conduct scientific research in parks and protected areas. As part of Parks 100 celebrations, BC Parks is facilitating *Science in the Park* days that bring attention to different scientific activities that occur in parks and protected areas. Conducted by MOE/MNRO staff or partners, these events are aimed at demonstrating how scientific research is a vital component of well-informed management decisions that keep parks healthy.

Science in the Park activities are designed as community events that allow members of the public to learn and participate in some scientific activities occurring in parks. For example, events could be focused on activities, such as tide pool monitoring or bird inventories, and should involve park visitors or a group of volunteers in observations, measurements, data recording and even results analysis. The goal is to organize a *Science in the Park* event with staff or partners to allow the public to observe and participate in conservation science. Possible projects would:

- Demonstrate the scientific method
- Relate to conservation of natural and/or cultural values
- Fit a short start to finish timeline in a park (a few hours)
- Demonstrate how science can (or cannot) inform management decisions

Regional staff and researchers currently operating in an ecological reserve, park or protected area can create an event highlighting science and involving the public in a fun and engaging activity. Preference will be given to proposals that have the characteristics mentioned above and occur in parks or protected areas that are relatively close to developed areas, in order to make it easier for people to travel to the location.

Communities for Conservation



One very important aspect of conservation in parks and protected areas is the work undertaken by volunteer-based conservation groups, dedicated in helping to protect and enhance parks and protected areas.

Communities for Conservation events are opportunities for BC Parks to recognize these important groups and the conservation work they do, and partner with them on a conservation event. BC Parks will provide some support to undertake an initiative, such as a weed pull or a beach cleanup. For example, projects could include:

- Nature education
- Invasive species control
- Restoration

Communities for Conservation events are open to a wide range of volunteers and community conservation groups. Preference will be given to groups that have shown a commitment to “on the ground” conservation projects in parks and protected areas. However, seeking out partnerships with new groups is encouraged and will help build new strong relationships.

Funding and Application Process

Funding may support various aspects of the event, such as:

- Refreshments for volunteers and participants
- Transportation (if necessary)
- Promotion
- Equipment

The following criteria will determine the events that will be selected for participation in the series:

- Proposed event must take place in an ecological reserve, park or protected area between March 1 and December 31, 2011.
- Wardens, community groups and staff or researchers must submit a short (2 page) application that outlines event details including: budget, event description, date, etc.
- Events should have a target participation number of at least 20 people.
- Events must be family-friendly.
- Wardens, community groups and staff or researchers will provide BC Parks with at least 10 high quality digital images from the event to be used in promotional material (videos will be appreciated as well).

- Wardens, community groups and staff or researchers will provide a brief summary report of the event.

Applications are being taken immediately. Please use the attached application form and submit it to the regional Conservation Specialist (see below for a listing). Proposal review will occur by Regional Managers and their teams. Funds will be dispersed to successful projects beginning in April. Funding is available until fully dispersed.

Conservation Specialists

Northern Region (Skeena, Omineca, Peace) – Darren Fillier – Darren.Fillier@gov.bc.ca

Thompson Cariboo Region (Cariboo, Thompson) – Sarma Liepins – Sarma.Liepins@gov.bc.ca

Kootenay Okanagan Region (Okanagan) – Kirk Safford – Kirk.Safford@gov.bc.ca

Kootenay Okanagan Region (Kootenay) – Mike Gall – Mike.Gall@gov.bc.ca

South Coast Region – Joanna Hirner – Joanna.Hirner@gov.bc.ca

West Coast Region (includes Haida Gwaii and Central Coast) – Don Cadden (Regional Manager) – Don.Cadden@gov.bc.ca