



SFI Inc. 2011 Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program

The Nature Conservancy of Canada: Bat Hibernacula Inventory and Protection in the Thompson, Okanagan, Boundary

[The Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) will receive a total of \$50,000 over two years to support protection of bat populations in southern British Columbia by creating an inventory of the locations and health of bat habitat. The results of this research will inform management decisions that are aimed at protecting bat populations in this British Columbia.

Supporting the SFI Standard

The project addresses the following performance measures of the SFI 2010-2014 Program: 4.1 promote biological diversity at stand- and landscape-levels; 4.2 apply knowledge gained through research, science, technology and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity; 6.1 identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate to their unique features; and 15.1 support cooperative efforts in research for conservation of biological diversity.

Project Partners

The Nature Conservancy of Canada; BC Bat; the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations; SFI-certified International Forest Products Ltd.

Project Details

When bats that are disturbed during hibernation, they may abandon their sites, using important energy reserves they need to survive the winter. Human access to bat hibernation sites may also spread pathogens such as white nose syndrome, a fungus that is causing mass bat die-offs across North America. Little is known about bat hibernation sites other than the fact human intrusion is a threat to bat populations.

The project will create an inventory of significant bat hibernation sites in British Columbia's southern interior and will assess the actions needed to protect these sites from disturbance. This project will build on existing knowledge in the Okanagan and Kootenay regions, and gating may occur at high priority sites that have already been identified by previous research.

About The Nature Conservancy of Canada

The Nature Conservancy of Canada is Canada's leading land conservation organization, working to protect valuable natural areas and the plants and animals they sustain. Since 1962, the Nature Conservancy of Canada and its partners have helped to protect more than 2 million acres/800,000 hectares coast to coast. Through strong partnerships, the Nature Conservancy of Canada works to safeguard natural areas so that our children and grandchildren will have the chance to enjoy them.