

Application for BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature's Club Support Grant for 2019

Applicant

Delta Naturalists Society

Mailing address: PO Box 18044, 1215C 56th Street Delta, B.C. V4L 2M4

Contact Person: **Chris McVittie**, Director at large, 604-230-6309, cmcvit@gmail.com

Alternative: **Peter Ward**, Member, 604-721-0217, prbward@gmail.com

Project Description

This project is a continuation for the highly successful **Barn Owl Nesting Box project**.

In 2018 we applied to the foundation for funds to produce 10 Boxes that were positioned within barns and also 2 stand alone outside boxes. We were able to produce an extra 2 inside boxes with the funds. All of these boxes have been installed in Delta.



Purpose of this application

We wish to continue with the 2018 project. There is continual loss of habitat for the Barn Owls and there is a real need to continually improve nesting and roosting sites for the Barn Owls within the Lower Mainland.

Barn Owls continue to be at risk from the encroachment of their habitat due to urban development. Given the estimated human population growth for our region (Metro 2040), it is imperative that we ensure that there is available nesting and roosting habitat for this species in the future. The installation of boxes also makes landowners aware of the habitat needs of barn owls such as old field habitat for hunting. Providing Barn Owl nesting sites allows landowners to eliminate their use of rodenticides and none of the boxes are installed close to major highways.

Barn Owls have shown to have the potential to be effective in rodent control in blueberry fields as part of a farmers integrated pest management program (IPM). Barn Owls are used widely as a rodent control ally in vineyards in California. We are hoping that this IPM model can be established here in the Lower Mainland as a “win-win” for both the farmers and the barn owls. This would also lead to the reduction of rodenticide usage on agricultural lands.

We are asking for **\$2040**. See costs below.

We coordinate with **Sofi Hindmarch** and seek her expertise for suitable locations and installs.

We are looking to build 6 outside boxes in 2019.

Date approved by club Board of Directors. January 15 2019

Description of the project

The project is for the construction and installation of six external Barn Owl Boxes. The boxes will be installed throughout the lower mainland.

In 2018 we concentrated on Delta. in 2019 we wish to put 3 of the boxes in Delta and make the others available to other clubs in the Lower Mainland. We feel that the demand is greater than the 6 boxes that the grant covers. We have firm locations for 4 of the boxes and expect to be able to firm up locations for the remaining 2 within the next four months.

Start date and completion

The building part of the project starts in February 2019 and ends in April 2019. The installations will be spread out over 2019 ending in October 2019

Why do we need to have this project?

Barn Owls continue to be at risk from the ever increasing encroachment of their space. They have proven to be very effective for rodent control in blueberry farms

Community engagement

The project has brought together members of Delta Naturalists Society and Vancouver Nature. As we populate more boxes in the community we are linking to many organizations, eg Langley Naturalists, City of Delta, SPCA Surrey and SICA.

We have six boxes in Metro Vancouver Parks. Iona and Boundary Bay. Education posters have been installed in these parks.

People involved in the project. [*note*; NO member of the team will receive any remuneration apart from a small compensation for mileage. 95 % of the grant monies will be used for materials]

Peter Ward [lead]
Sofi Hindmarch
Jim Kneesch
Chris McVittie
Jack MacDonald
Ken Hall
Mike Bayliss
Roger Kenny
Syd Barber

Member Delta Nats and Vancouver Nature
Principal Barn Owls BC [<http://www.barnowlsbc.ca>,]
Treasurer Delta Naturalists Society
Director Delta Naturalists Society
Member Delta Naturalists Society
Member Vancouver Nature
Member Delta Naturalists Society
Member Delta Naturalists Society
Director Delta Naturalists Society



Project Costs

Item	Cost \$ ea	Total for 6
<u>Direct Costs</u>		
Box materials [wood , hinges, handle, screws, roofing]	\$120	\$720
Surround Balcony	\$35	\$210
Pole	\$80	\$480
Mounting Hardware	\$40	\$240
Cement/ sand	\$25	\$150
Milage for participants	\$30	\$180
Contribution for consumable tools	\$10	<u>\$60</u>
Sub total Direct Costs		\$2040
<u>Labour</u>		
Fabrication of 6 Boxes and balconies 4 people	12 hrs @ \$25	\$1800
Installation of 6 boxes 2 people	5 hrs @ \$25	\$750
Lift Equipment	2 hrs @ \$100	\$1200
Sub total Labour		<u>\$3750</u>
TOTAL Costs of project		\$5790
<u>Financed by</u>		
Donated Labour		\$2550
Donated Equipment use		\$1200
Grant from B.C. Nature	35%	\$2040



