

APPLICATION FORM 2025 Grant in Aid

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:
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MANDATORY: REVIEW "POLICY 4-01 COMMUNITY GRANT IN AID" DOCUMENT
REVIEW "APPLICATION CHECKLIST" ON PAGE 4 OF THIS DOCUMENT

Applicant Information

Application Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Full Legal Organization Name

Street Address

City Prov

Postal Code

Organization Website

Organization President /
Executive Director

Title

Phone Number E-Mail

Contact Person (if different)

Title

Phone Number E-Mail

Organization Information

Not for profit? Yes No

Registration Number

Did you receive a Permissive Tax Exemption in 2025 Yes No

Did you receive a Grant in Aid in last two years?
(Include \$ amount of financial and/or in-kind received) 2024 2023

Organization Information

Current Fundraising Initiatives (500 characters or less)

Annual membership dues
Registration Fees
Members donations
Grant from parent BC Nature

Mission Statement/Purpose (500 characters or less)

Stimulate active interest in Natural History: Study Flora and Fauna and their habitats; Promote education and Stewardship of wildlife and their natural environment, especially among the youth of our region; To work with other societies and like bodies having interests in common with this society, within and beyond the Province of British Columbia.

Brief Description of Organization (1,000 characters or less)

Nicola Naturalist Society (NNS) was formed in 2010 and is based in Merritt. Membership is open to anyone interested in Nature, Wildlife and the health of the local ecosystems. Our membership varies between 75-100 members. Along with more than 50 other Naturalist Clubs in British Columbia, we are a member of BC Nature (Federation of BC Naturalists). NNS members receive automatic membership to BC Nature and receive BC Nature quarterly magazines (copy attached) and can participate in all BC Nature camps, meetings and other events.

During the fall and winter months, the NNS holds monthly meetings in the lecture theatre at NVIT in Merritt. In lieu of a theatre rental fee the NNS awards a \$2000 bursary to a deserving student in the NVIT faculty of Natural Resource Science. The club runs a raffle at each meeting with the funds raised covering the aforementioned bursary. During the calendar year we organize events such as Christmas Bird Counts and field outings to enjoy and learn about Flora, Fauna and the environment.

The NNS provides direction and outdoor equipment for the Merritt NatureKids Club.

The NNS is presently working on two (2) scientific studies. One study monitoring the Great Basin Spadefoot amphibians and a second study monitoring the Sandhill Crane migration routes on the Douglas Lake Plateau.

More detailed information regarding the NNS and be found in detail on our NNS webpage and on facebook.

Please don't hesitate to **attach supporting documents** with further information about your organization.

Proposal Request

Program / Project / Event Name

BC Nature Conference and Annual General Meeting

Description of Event (1,000 characters or less)

The NNS is hosting the BC Nature Conference and Annual General Meeting in Merritt in May 2025. We anticipate attendance will be in the range of 135-150 participants/deligates with the possibility of up to 200. The majority of the participants will be from out of town Naturalists clubs.

The benefit to the City will be two fold, one being economic with benefits in the hospitality, restaurant and retail sectors. The second will be exposing provincial deligates/participants to the beauty of the Nicola Valley and surrounding areas as we have planned +/-20 Nature focused field trips to various local areas. We have attached a list of planned field trips for reference.

We have also attached a detailed Daily Program for the event which outlines the weekend schedule including several Nature themed presentations from Dr. Larsen, Dr. Willms and Dr. Ballin. Our saturday evening key note speaker will be Lennard Joe - First Nations Stewardship, a history and current applications in the BC Interior.

We are requesting your favourable consideration for a \$1,000 in-kind credit on our rental Cost for the Merritt Civic Centre for May 22-24, 2025.

Please don't hesitate to **attach supporting documents** with details about your program, project or event.

Type of Funding Request

Financial Aid

In-Kind

Contact Facility Booking Department at (250) 315-1050 for a quote for your event

Amount Requested

1000

Maximum of \$7,500 per organization or \$500 per teams/individuals participating in recognized competitions

Program Budget

20000

Percent of your Program Budget covered by this request

5

%

(i.e. a \$1,000 grant would cover 10% of a \$10,000 event)

Tell us how much money you have fundraised for this event. \$

1,100

Please explain how your Organization or Event plans to increase external fundraising in the future. (500 characters or less)

The NNS plans to secure additional sponsorship funding from various corporate entities doing business in the Nicola Valley. We also expect to receive personal donations.

A silent auction is planned for the event will also generate funds.

Declaration (Two Authorized Signatures Required)

- 1) On behalf of and with authority of the Organization, I certify that the information given on this grant application and attachments is true, correct and complete in every respect and if the Organization is awarded the grant, agrees to abide by the established grant terms and conditions.
- 2) The personal information collected on this form is done so pursuant to the *Community Charter* and/or the *Local Government Act* and in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The personal information collected herein will be used only for the purpose of processing this application or request and for no other purpose unless its release is authorized by its owner, the information is part of a record series commonly available to the public, or is compelled by a Court agent duly authorized under another Act.
- 3) Neither the City of Merritt or any Member of Council, individually or collectively, is in any way responsible for any deficits or cost over-runs in relation to any event or initiative.

Print Name of Board Chair or
President

Dr. Alan Burger President

Signature

Alan Burger

Print Name of Person
completing the application

Vic Newton Director

Signature

Vic Newton

Date Signed (mm/dd/yyyy)

12/04/2024

APPLICATION CHECKLIST - ALL REQUESTS

- 2025 Grant Report** - If you received a Grant in Aid in 2024 you will be required to submit a final report to Council in order to be considered for 2025 funding. This may include actual revenues/expenses, attendance, and economic/social impact of the grant.
- Completed and signed Grant in Aid application.**

APPLICATION CHECKLIST - REQUESTS OVER \$1,500

- Budget** - Include a detailed budget for the program, project or event, including all potential revenue sources.
- Financial Statements** - include annual financial statements that are certified (signed) by a Director (or alternate) of the organization.
- Organization Budget** - Include the current annual operating budget for the organization.
- Long-Term Plan** - For recurring applications, please provide a business plan showing how the organization intends to become more self-sufficient and less reliant on the City Grant in Aid program in the future.

SUBMIT TO FINANCE@MERRITT.CA

About the Nicola Naturalist Society

Our regular monthly meetings have resumed – Check out the Meetings page: [Meetings](#)

We are now on Facebook. Check out our new Facebook page: [NNS Facebook](#)

The Nicola Naturalist Society, formed in 2010, is based in Merritt, BC. Membership is open to anyone interested in nature, wildlife and the health of the local ecosystems. Along with more than 50 other naturalist clubs in British Columbia we are a member of **BC Nature** (Federation of BC Naturalists). NNS members receive automatic membership to BC Nature, receive the BC Nature quarterly magazine and can participate in all BC Nature camps, meetings and other events.

Merritt has a NatureKids BC club catering to children aged 5-12 and their families. For more on this click here: [Merritt NatureKids](#)

Final Report for our amphibian monitoring project has been released. Our club ran a five-year project mapping and monitoring amphibians over a 7,200 sq km study area. For more information and a copy of the report click here: [Amphibian Monitoring](#).

Check out our popular butterfly and moth pages: [Butterflies & Moths and More Butterflies and Moths](#)

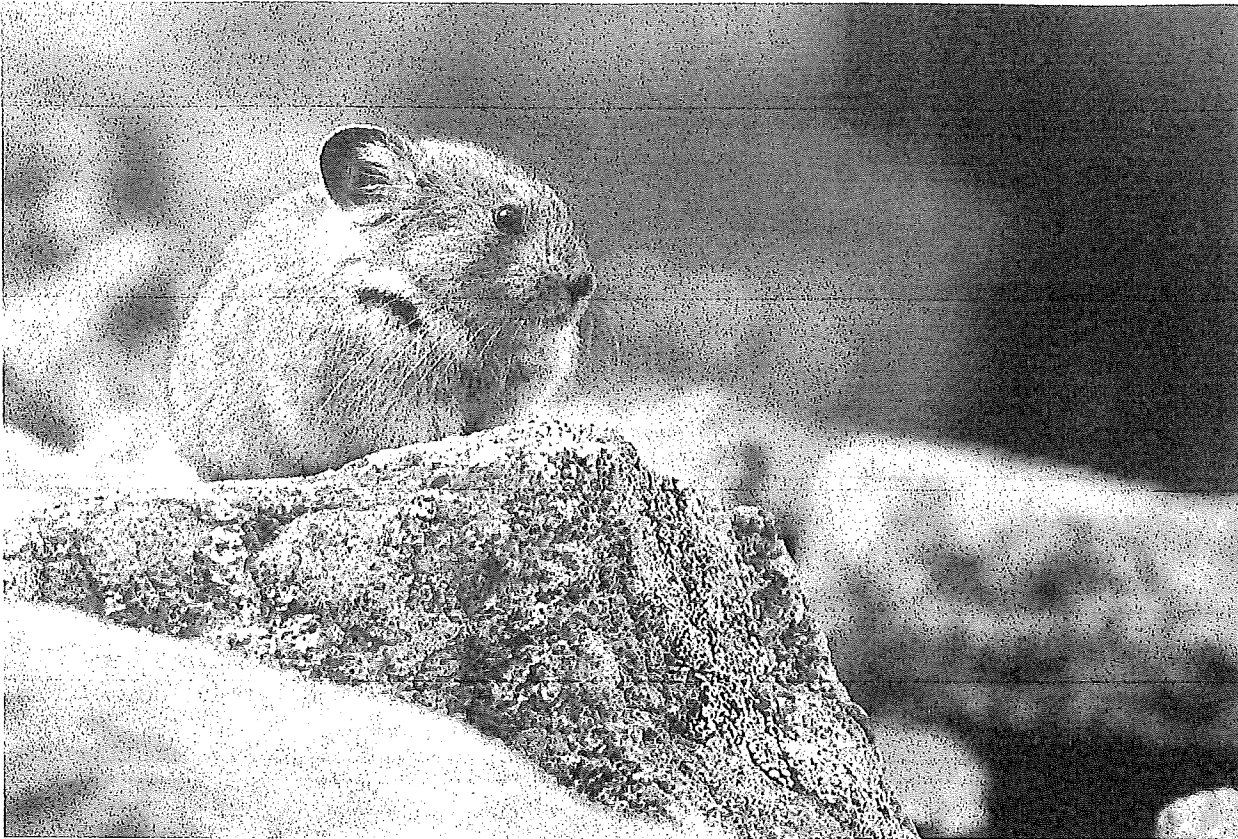
During the fall and winter the Nicola Naturalist Society holds monthly evening meetings, usually in the lecture theatre of the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) in Merritt. We run regular events like the Christmas Bird Count and organize field outings to enjoy and learn about local flora, fauna and environment. Go to the [Meetings & Events](#) page for more information on upcoming meetings, events and outings. You can also find links to past events there – to get some idea of our society's activities.

The Nicola Valley and surrounding areas comprise a rich diversity of ecosystems, including moist and dry forests, grasslands, sagebrush, alpine meadows and many types of wetlands. Several rare and threatened species occur in our area. As our society grows and matures we will be undertaking special projects. We organized an exciting 5-year amphibian monitoring project that ran from 2011 to 2015. We are also co-monitors of the Douglas Lake Plateau Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA). Go to the [Projects](#) page to find out more about these projects.

A major objective of the Nicola Naturalist Society is to provide education and information on the wild organisms and ecosystems of the BC interior, especially those that are found in the Nicola Valley and surrounding areas. See our [Features & News](#) page for special features on local species and natural communities, and news of recent club activities.

NNS members receive a quarterly electronic Newsletter containing nature news, special wildlife features and photographs and much more. Examples of our past newsletters are posted on the [Newsletters](#) page of this website.

Go to the NNS [Photo Gallery](#) to see photos of our local wildlife taken by the Society's members.



American Pika – commonly found on scree slopes in the mountains of British Columbia. Photo: © Murphy Shewchuk.

More of Murphy's photos at www.murphyshechuk.com

If you are interested in the wonderful flora, fauna and wild places in the Merritt/Nicola area we welcome you to join the society. Click on the Membership menu button to download a membership form and send it, along with the membership fee, to the address on the form: Membership

We are registered as a society under the BC Societies Act. For a copy of our constitution and bylaws click here: NNS Constitution & Bylaws



BC NATURE CONFERENCE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM
"Nature in the Rain Shadow – grasslands, forests and wetlands"

Hosted by the Nicola Naturalist Society - May 22-24, 2025

Merritt Civic Centre – 1950 Mamette Ave, Merritt, BC V1K 1R6

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people

Registration opens Thursday, January 2, 2025 (online and mail-in)

Date	Event
Thursday, May 22	
1:00 – 7:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
1:30 – 3:30 pm	BC Nature Board of Directors meeting
4:00 – 6:00 pm	Council of Club Representatives Meeting (light dinner provided)
6:00 pm	Dinner is on your own
7:00 – 9:00 pm	RECEPTION and PRESENTATIONS a) <i>Introduction to nature in the rain shadow</i> (Alan Burger) b) <i>Wildlife videos from the BC Interior</i> (Frank Ritcey) c) <i>Nature macro-photography in the Nicola Valley</i> (Leanne Cleaveley)
Friday, May 23	
6:00 – 8:00 am	Early morning birding (Pre-registration required)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration desk open (tea, coffee and light snacks)
9:00 – 9:30 am	Official welcome by Merritt Mayor (Michael Goetz), Nlaka'pamux and Syilx representatives and BC Nature president (Dr. Nancy Flood).
9:30 – 10:30 am	Feature presentation: Dr. Jill Harvey – <i>Wildfire in the BC Interior – past, present and future</i>
10:30 – 11:00 am	Coffee, Tea and Snacks
11:00 – 11:45 am	Concurrent presentations: a) Dr. Karl Larsen – <i>Wildlife research in the BC Interior</i> b) Dr. Tom Willms – <i>Thermal refuges for salmonids in the Nicola Valley rivers</i> c) Dr. Peter Ballin – <i>The wisdom of turtles</i>
11:45 - noon	Field trip instructions
Noon – 1 pm	Light Lunch is Provided
1:00 – 4:00 pm	Field trips (pre-registration required)
4:15 – 6:00 pm	Meetings: BC Naturalists' Foundation and BC Nature Committees
6:00 pm	Dinner is on your own
8:00 – 11:00 pm	Night outings (pre-registration required) a) Moths with Bob Scafe and Dr. Dave Holden b) Owling – location to be determined c) Great Basin Spadefoots at Pennask Lake Road
Saturday, May 24	
6:00 – 8:00 am	Early morning birding (Pre-registration required)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration Desk Open (coffee, tea and light snacks)
9:00 – noon	Field Trips (Pre-registration required)
Noon	Light Lunch is Provided
1:30 – 4:00 pm	BC Nature Annual General Meeting
5:00 – 6:30 pm	Social Hour – beer and wine tickets obtained from registration desk
6:00 – 9:00 pm	Banquet (extra cost, pre-registration required, silent auction, awards) Keynote speaker: Lennard Joe – <i>First Nations' stewardship – a history and current applications in the BC Interior</i>
Sunday, May 25	
9:00 – noon	Farewell Field Trips (pre-registration required)

Field Trips: Please rank trip choices each day (1, 2 or 3) - will be assigned by order of registration. All have limited numbers.

Field Trip options (Offered both Friday and Saturday unless otherwise specified)	Rated	Rank your choices - 1, 2 and 3	
		Friday 23 rd	Saturday 24 th
1. Pennask Lake Road - nature & photography (Murphy Shewchuk)	Easy		
2. Lundbom Commonage - nature hike; not on trails (Frank Ritcey)	Moderate-Difficult		
3. Lundbom Commonage - grassland ecology (Dennis Lloyd, Mike Dedels, others)	Easy		NA
4. Kane Valley - birds & wildflowers (Lis Jeffries & Paul Willms)	Easy		
5. Bioblitz & iNaturalist workshop (Liam Ragan)	Easy		
6. Lichens of the Nicola Valley (Christine Rimmington)	Moderate		
7. Mushroom foray (Michael Ebenal)	Easy		
8. Butterflies with Bob (Bob Scafe)	Easy	NA	
9. Kentucky-Alleyne Provincial Park - toads, birds & hike (Ted Cederland)	Moderate		
10. Beaver re-introductions in the Nicola Valley (Tom Willms)	Easy	NA	
11. Extended birding - Lindley Creek-Midday Valley loop (TBA)	Easy		
12. Burrowing Owl pellet analysis (Dawn Brodie & Loretta Holmes)	Easy		
13. Minerals, fossils & geological history, Merritt area (Gerry Sanford)	Easy		
14. Forestry in the Nicola Valley (Norm Hansen & Chris Lepsoe)	Moderate		
15. Sustainable ranching in the Nicola Valley (John Anderson & others)	Easy		
16. Tour & history of NVIT, recognition of First Nations people (Aruna Gore)	Easy		NA
17. Hamilton Commonage - ponds, wildflowers & birds (Alan Burger)	Easy		
18. Macro-photography workshop (Leanne Cleaveley)	Easy	NA	
19. Value-added use of logs & sustainable building (John Boys)	Easy		NA
20. River restoration to meet traditional Indigenous values (TBA)	Easy		NA

Friday - night outings 8 - 11 PM

Rank your choices - 1, 2 and 3

FN01. Moths and moth sampling techniques, with Bob Scafe & Dr. Dave Holden	Easy	
FN02. Owling in the Merritt area	Easy	
FN03. Great Basin Spadefoots at Pennask Lake Road	Easy	

Sunday, May 25th Farewell outings (please check website for updates)

Rank your choices - 1, 2 and 3

S01. Douglas Lake Plateau - grasslands and ranching	Easy	
S02. Hike the Coquihalla Pass forest	Moderate	
S03. Birding at Tunkwa Lake Provincial Park	Easy	