



CFGGA launches Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool in British Columbia

For Immediate Release

FREDERICTON, N.B. (April 29, 2025) – The Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (CFGGA) launched its British Columbia [Habitat and Biodiversity Assessment Tool \(HBAT\)](#) today. The two-hour webinar provided background on the HBAT project and tool, a demonstration of the tool, how to read the output report(s) and the potential for use across British Columbia.

Designed as an extension and awareness tool, the HBAT is a province-specific online tool meant to help land managers gain an understanding of important habitats and biodiversity on their land and the stewardship opportunities they could implement to sustain them. It is based on the potential for species to occur in an area and avoids releasing sensitive information about actual native species observations.

The tool provides agricultural producers with the knowledge of what native species have the potential to occur on their land based on the known or expected distribution of species, the geographic location of the farm or ranch and on the habitat types and features that are found on it. With that knowledge, conservation opportunities for native species can be suggested to producers who can then decide on what, if anything, is compatible and desirable within their operational constraints and objectives.

Heather Peat Hamm, on the BC HBAT team, says she sees the tool being used for planning purposes and for information on species needing stewardship in agricultural areas, guiding users to support habitat and species stewardship on their land.

“It will reveal what are the most impactful practices and which are the “easy-to-do” practices, as well as informing them of what species are more likely to be using their land for habitat,” she says, explaining the tool includes species from most taxa - vascular plants, non-vascular plants, mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, amphibians and fish - and takes an inclusive approach to stewarding habitats to support vulnerable species.

The British Columbia HBAT launch is the latest in a series of HBAT launches the CFGGA is conducting across the country. Tools are also available for Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. The final tool for Québec will be launched soon as the CFGGA wraps up the sixth, and final, year of the \$1.2-million project, which began in 2020 with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as part of the Canada Nature Fund.





Canadian Forage & Grassland Association
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères



More info

For more information about the HBAT project, and to access the British Columbia tool, visit [the CFGA website](#).

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About Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

Incorporated in 2010, the CFGA provides a national voice for all Canadians who produce hay and forage products and for those whose production is dependent upon forage/grassland production.

