# BC Coastal Oak and Prairie Working Group

**About the Partnership:** The Coastal Oak and Prairie Working Group (COAPWG) is a loosely-affiliated, community-led network of 20 NGOs, Indigenous stewards, land managers, scientists, and volunteers who voluntarily coordinate to conserve and restore coastal oak and prairie landscapes across the extent of remaining habitat in Canada. Since its establishment in 2021, we have protected and stewarded 178 acres of oak and prairie areas, using six years of federally-sourced funding amounting to $6.3 million CAD.




## Meet the Partners:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Coastal Douglas-fir Conservation Partnership, Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team, Habitat Acquisition Trust, NTBC, Natural Resources Canada, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Parks Canada, Province of British Columbia Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship, Stqeeye' Learning Society, University of Victoria, and W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society


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**Conservation Impact:** Reduced to only 3% of their former extent in Canada, these remnant habitats are prioritized for protection and recovery because they host many locally endemic species and culturally important plants. More than 100 species of birds, pollinators, mammals, plants, and cultural values tied to these oak areas are officially listed as at risk because of habitat loss and fragmentation.

This dramatic loss underpins urgent conservation action. COAPWG projects emphasize measurable recovery outcomes, long-term monitoring, and Indigenous stewardship to reverse declines. The remaining 3% extent of unprotected is primarily privately owned with an average cost from $53K CAD to over $1.5M CAD per hectare, making collaborative stewardship extremely important.

# Shovel-Ready COAPWG Projects Ready for Investment




## Harewood Plains Project

**Estimated Impact:** 422 acres **Estimated Cost:** $6M CAD

Harewood Plains (located about 100 kilometers from Victoria) is one of Canada's finest remaining areas of oak and prairie, supporting rare plant communities and numerous species at risk. It urgently requires protection from intensive off-road vehicle use. Funding is needed to develop an acquisition strategy and a management plan to guide the site's long-term protection and stewardship.




## Bring Back the Bluebird Project

**Estimated Impact:** 40 acres **Estimated Cost:** $0.5M CAD

We are partnering with Ecostudies Institute to recover lost Western Bluebird populations in the Salish Sea. Bluebirds were extirpated from this region by the 1990s, but this project has re-established a small population on Vancouver Island. Over the next five years, we will recreate nesting habitat, translocate bluebirds from Washington, and support nesting bluebirds to rebuild the population.




## Working Together for 100 Priority Prairies Project

**Estimated Impact:** 741 acres **Estimated Cost:** $10M CAD

This initiative would involve 22 organizations collaborating to implement protection, restoration, management, and recovery objectives on over 100 prairie sites. These fragments represent the remaining 3% of prairie in Canada, and exist across a patchwork of public parklands, private land, and Indigenous territories. The sites are rich in biodiversity and provide habitat for 111 species at risk.

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