



THOMPSON-NICOLA  
CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025-2026

*TNCC Fall Partner Field Day  
October 9, 2025*

## Advancing Our Vision: A Year in Review

This annual report highlights TNCC's progress toward the priorities set out in the 2025–2026 Action Plan, aligned with the four core goals of the TNCC Strategic Plan 2023–2026. Over the past year, TNCC and its partners advanced discussions, planning, and next steps toward implementation-ready ecological connectivity work — building on early regional mapping and bringing together regional partners and First Nations to tackle this priority — while continuing to advance Indigenous-led stewardship, regenerative agriculture, and road ecology priorities across the Thompson Watershed and into the North Okanagan.

Amid a growing and increasingly implementation-focused network, TNCC continued to serve as a collaborative hub for knowledge sharing, capacity-building, and regional coordination. The accomplishments in this report reflect the strength of our partnerships — now spanning over 60 organizations — and our shared commitment to protecting biodiversity and ecosystem health across the Thompson-Nicola region.

*TNCC respectfully acknowledges that the collaborative operates on the unceded territory of the Secwépemc, Syilx and Nlaka'pamux Nations, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## GOAL 1: NETWORK

Strengthen the network of conservation organizations to achieve efficiencies, synergies and increased effectiveness

**Partner Engagement:** TNCC's network grew to more than 60 partner organizations this year, spanning all levels of government, environmental non-government organizations, Indigenous communities, stewardship groups, land trusts, naturalist clubs, and academia. This growing network continues to align efforts across jurisdictions and amplify the collective impact of conservation across the Thompson-Nicola region.

**Communications and Outreach:** TNCC's communications continued to grow in both reach and engagement. Social media followers rose 34%, while the monthly e-newsletter grew 29%, maintaining a strong 64% open rate and 15% click-through rate. TNCC also continued to maintain its website as a central hub for conservation resources, project updates, and partner initiatives.

**Keeping Nature Connected:** A major communications milestone this year was the launch of the Keeping Nature Connected campaign — a coordinated initiative translating technical corridor mapping into accessible, place-based messaging about ecological connectivity, wildlife movement, and climate resilience.

# 568

E-news subscribers (**up 29%**)

# 1,546

Social media followers (**up 34%**)

Running February–May 2026, the campaign combined a dedicated micro-website ([KeepingNatureConnected.ca](http://KeepingNatureConnected.ca)) with paid social media, television advertising, and an influencer partnership to reach residents, decision-makers, and land stewards. It generated over 2.3 million impressions and drove more than 9,000 sessions to the campaign website, reaching audiences across the region connected to land use, outdoor recreation, and stewardship. This foundation lays the groundwork for continued public engagement as corridor implementation advances.

**Corridors and Crossings Forum:** TNCC supported the creation and delivery of the Corridors and Crossings Forum, bringing together over 45 participants to advance wildlife connectivity and coordinated conservation action.



Campaign website



Campaign video featuring Ed Jensen



The Nature Educator reel



Post from campaign Social Media Toolkit

## GOAL 2: CAPACITY

Facilitate efforts to increase the technical and organizational capacity of TNCC and partners to undertake conservation and stewardship activities

### **Advancing Ecological Connectivity:**

Building on the six broad-scale connectivity maps completed the previous year, TNCC and partners advanced regional corridor work substantially this year, moving from regional analysis toward implementation-ready planning.

- Coordination of the First Nations-led Corridors Working Group
- Completion of multi-species, climate-informed connectivity modelling
- Convening of the North Thompson–North Okanagan Corridors Workshop (January 22, 2026), with 35 participants including Indigenous partners, local government staff, provincial agency representatives, and conservation practitioners
- Collaborative identification and refinement of 22 corridor concepts region-wide, resulting in identification of 13 emerging corridors
- Development of a Corridor Action Framework and a Five-Year Ecological Connectivity Action Plan for the Thompson Watershed (2026–2030)

This work included support for the creation of dedicated corridor action frameworks with seven participating Secwépemc Nations, reflecting each Nation's knowledge, priorities, and governance and supporting potential future corridor recognition.

*North Thompson–North Okanagan Corridors Workshop*

### **Conservation Planning Portal: TNCC**

continued to maintain and grow the online Conservation Planning Portal, now featuring more than 200 curated resources, including legislation, current programs and plans, funding opportunities, and interactive mapping tools for planners, practitioners, and land stewards.

### **Funding and Partnerships: TNCC**

leveraged multiple funding sources to advance implementation of Conservation Action Plan priorities, including secured support from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, Parks Canada – National Program for Ecological Corridors, BC Conservation Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Sitka Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Real Estate Foundation of BC, and Nature Conservancy of Canada, alongside ongoing applications for further corridor planning and implementation funding, including collaborative applications with Nations.





Table Instructions

1. Continue in your table group and identify emerging corridors "rising to the top"
2. Label emerging corridors e.g., Table 1 use 1A, 1B, etc.; Table 2 use 2A, 2B etc.
3. Complete the "Emerging Corridor Worksheet" for each corridor:
  - Why the corridor matters
  - 1-3 major barriers
  - Urgency
4. Prepare to report back on 1-2 corridors

## GOAL 3: STEWARDSHIP

### Increase the effectiveness and coordination of stewardship activities taking place on public and private lands

**Regenerative Agriculture Action Plan:** The Regenerative Agriculture Working Group completed a Five-Year Regenerative Agriculture Action Plan (2026–2030), focused on supporting adoption of regenerative practices that improve soil health, biodiversity, and water resilience; improving coordination and accessibility of stewardship and incentive programs; and strengthening alignment between agriculture, conservation, and climate adaptation. Implementation is partner-led and phased, beginning with foundational coordination and scaling to on-the-ground action over time.

**Supporting Indigenous-Led Stewardship:** The Corridors Working Group continued to guide TNCC's corridor work this year, with communities' restoration and stewardship priorities shaping collaborative funding applications. TNCC also supported fund development and outreach efforts for the Mother Earth Cultural Conservation Society's cultural monitoring and patrol initiatives.



*Winner of the Sketchestn Sticker Contest (coordinated by TNCC); credit: Lauren Meads*

#### **Policy Recommendations and Planning**

**Tools:** To support the integration of ecological corridor data into municipal planning, TNCC shared corridor mapping and policy language with local governments across the region. This included incorporation of wildlife corridor considerations into the City of Kamloops' Official Community Plan ([KAMPLAN 2025](#), including Map 10 – Environmentally Sensitive Areas), along with corridor mapping provided to Barriere, Salmon Arm, Chase, and Enderby to support their own planning processes.

#### **Targeted Stewardship Engagement:**

TNCC connected landowners and land managers with stewardship programs and tools in priority corridor areas and working landscapes, drawing on the Conservation Planning Portal and strengthening collaboration between stewardship groups, governments, and Indigenous partners. The Keeping Nature Connected campaign extended this work online, translating connectivity into concrete action — guidance on wildlife-friendly fencing, native planting, and riparian buffers, plus community science tools for reporting wildlife sightings and roadkill — while linking visitors to regional stewardship groups and Indigenous-led initiatives.



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## GOAL 4: CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

### Increase coordination of land conservation and protection

#### **From Regional Analysis Towards Place-**

**Based Action:** This year marked a significant transition in TNCC's ecological connectivity work — from regional mapping and modelling toward targeted, place-based conservation action. TNCC partners identified critical barriers and pinch points where transportation infrastructure intersects wildlife movement, such as constrained valley-bottom crossings and key highway segments, and compiled connectivity barrier and wildlife–vehicle collision information to support future mitigation planning. This work was reinforced by parallel efforts to integrate corridor considerations directly into local government planning tools.

#### **Indigenous-Led Corridor Mapping:**

Through the Thompson–North Okanagan connectivity work, Indigenous Knowledge and Nation-led priorities directly shaped corridor identification and refinement. TNCC supported the creation of Corridor Action Frameworks for seven Nations, which provide a foundation for potential future corridor recognition and alignment with broader planning processes.



*Great Basin gophersnake*  
Credit: Rob Hannawacker (CC0) via iNaturalist

# LOOKING AHEAD

TNCC's next phase of work centres on narrowing the 13 emerging corridors and systems toward a smaller set of candidate corridors ready for deeper pathway planning, guided by the Corridors Working Group and with structured opportunities for Steering Committee and partner input at key stages. Alongside this corridor work, TNCC remains committed to advancing priorities in species at risk, grassland and wetland ecosystems, and regenerative agriculture. Priorities for the year ahead also include exploring stronger local government planning tools to support corridor protection and building community capacity to support First Nations-led decision-making, while maintaining TNCC's role as a regional convenor and connector.



*Bighorn sheep in Thompson-Nicola  
Credit: Braden J. Judson (CC0) via iNaturalist*

# THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the TNCC Steering Committee, partners, funders, volunteers, and supporters. Your collaboration, expertise, and ongoing commitment have been essential to advancing conservation and stewardship across the Thompson-Nicola region. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected landscape for future generations.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Chris Barker, Wild Sheep Society of BC

Scott Boswell, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

Danielle Cross, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Tina Donald, Simpcw

Brian Holmes, Upper Nicola Band

Shauna Jones, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Angie Kane, Secwepemcúl'ecw Restoration and Stewardship Society

Alex LaForce, Lower Nicola Indian Band

Mike Overend, Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

Jesse Ritcey, Kamloops Naturalist Club

Mandy Ross, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC / Simpcw Resources Group

Gail Wallin, Invasive Species Council of BC

Kirsten Wourms, City of Kamloops

## FUNDERS

Canada



We invite you to join us in building a sustainable future. Visit our website [\*\*TNCCollaborative.org\*\*](https://TNCCollaborative.org) to learn more about opportunities, upcoming events, and resources.

Together, through collaborative conservation efforts, we can ensure a healthy and vibrant future for generations to come.



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