

HELICAT CANADA MISSION STATEMENT

HeliCat Canada is the trade association of the Canadian helicopter and snowcat skiing industry. Our primary mandate is to promote the continual improvement of the industry through research, education, and advocacy and by overseeing a trade accreditation program. Membership is comprised of helicopter and snowcat businesses who choose to support this mandate and commit to being accredited to HeliCat Canada standards.

The helicopter and snowcat skiing industry in Canada continually strives to operate at the highest standards and to address ever-increasing challenges related to best practices in safety, wildlife management, First Nations and community partnerships all falling under the umbrella of sustainability.

THE FUND

The HeliCat Canada Wildlife & Environmental Research Fund is a skier-funded initiative focused on supporting research projects that enable the helicat sector to continually improve its operating practices in the following areas:

- ➔ **Wildlife, Habitat Conservation & Species at Risk**
- ➔ **Climate Change**
- ➔ **Sustainability**
- ➔ **Avalanche Research & Safety**

We have established an independently managed fund to support our partners, including First Nations, governments and others with comprehensive, research-based data to support decisions that impact best operation practices and tenure security for our sector.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Since 2001 the helicat sector has collectively contributed close to \$2,000,000 towards Avalanche Research and wildlife conservation initiatives. HCC businesses host over 41,000 visitors each year to the mountains of BC for a truly awe-inspiring experience. We are acutely aware we need to minimize our impact on the wildlife that inhabit these remote regions. As stewards of these sensitive mountain landscapes we have first-hand knowledge of the challenges some species will face in the future. We are committed to solutions that allow our guests to continue to experience the best mountain

experiences in the world, while allowing these species to thrive.

HELICAT CANADA HAS BEEN THE LARGEST NON- GOVERNMENT SUPPORTER OF AVALANCHE-RELATED RESEARCH AND DATA IN NORTH AMERICA.

Funded solely by member operators, past wildlife conservation projects have included studies on wolverines, caribou and mountain goats. In addition to financial contributions, members provide lodging, meals

and transportation services for researchers and government biologists.

HeliCat Canada has been the largest non-government supporter of avalanche-related research and data in North America. We supply the majority of snow data for public avalanche forecasts, our members regularly host training courses and provide services and expertise for avalanche professionals. We have supported both the University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University Avalanche research projects on a continual basis as the premier sponsor.

INVESTING IN OUR GREATER COMMUNITY

By working as a collective group our resources can go further. Our priorities have been established through consultation with wildlife experts and industry stakeholders. Our funding will focus on projects such as the following initiatives:

- ➔ Real-time Ski Run Management Using Caribou Collar Telemetry Data
- ➔ Strategies for Helicat Operations in Wildlife Population Recovery
- ➔ The Future Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife
- ➔ Resource Road Development Impact on Wildlife and Decommissioning Strategies
- ➔ Avalanche Research
- ➔ Environmental Sustainability Initiatives



RESEARCH WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

FUND MANAGEMENT & VISION

The HeliCat Canada Wildlife & Environmental Research Fund is managed by an 'at-arms-length' committee that solicits and reviews proposals. The committee consists of a consulting biologist; First Nations representatives, BC government staff with experience in tourism and environmental management, heliCat operator representatives; as well as the Executive Director of HeliCat Canada. Proposals are solicited from university research departments, consulting wildlife biologists, government agencies, First Nations, NGO's. An approved list of projects is published annually along with project details and budget.

The application and funding award process is transparent and unbiased thus appealing to a broad range of possible interests. Funds will be allocated with the goal to further our understanding of how we can adapt our best practices in the future. For more information about fund management and procedures please contact HeliCat Canada or your member operator.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Participation in the fund by HCC member operators is completely voluntary. Furthermore, individual guests are under no obligation to contribute.

HeliCat Canada operators participating in the Wildlife & Environmental Research Fund will be invoicing their guests \$5.00 CAD per ski day. Every dollar collected goes directly to the fund.

If you would like to make a larger contribution, please speak to your HeliCat operator or contact HeliCat Canada directly. Thank you for your support.