

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 of which fall under the umbrella of sustainability.

THE FUND

The **HeliCat Canada Wildlife and 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 and Species at Risk**
- ➔ **Climate Change Impact**
- ➔ **Sustainability Initiatives**
- ➔ **First Nations Reconciliation Efforts**
- ➔ **Avalanche Safety and Research**

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

THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Wildlife populations are in decline, glaciers are retreating, and the wilderness experience is being impacted by competing users. For over 20 years, HeliCat Canada has applied resources to the challenge of managing wilderness areas and this fund will expand our capacity to contribute to this important work. Join us.

Since 2001, the helicat sector has collectively contributed close to \$2,000,000 towards avalanche research and wildlife conservation initiatives. Helicat businesses host over 41,000 visitors each year in the mountains of B.C. for a truly awe-inspiring experience. We are acutely aware that 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.

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 supporter of avalanche-related research and data in North America. We supply the majority of snow data for public avalanche forecasts, and our members regularly host training courses and provide services and expertise for avalanche professionals. We have also supported both the University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University Avalanche Research Projects (SARP) as a premiere 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 and environmental experts and industry stakeholders. Our funding will focus on projects such as the following initiatives:

- ➔ Real-Time Ski Run Management Using Telemetry Data
- ➔ Strategies for Helicat Operations in Wildlife Population Recovery
- ➔ The Future Impacts of Climate Change on Wildlife
- ➔ The Impacts of Retreating Glaciers and Snowpack on Wilderness Skiing
- ➔ Resource Road Development Impact on Wildlife and Decommissioning Strategies
- ➔ Avalanche Research
- ➔ Environmental Sustainability Initiatives



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a majestic, snow-covered mountain range under a dark, starry night sky. The mountains are illuminated by a warm, orange glow from the setting or rising sun, creating a dramatic contrast with the dark sky and the white snow. The overall mood is serene and awe-inspiring.

RESEARCH WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

FUND MANAGEMENT & VISION

The HeliCat Canada Wildlife and Environmental Research Fund is managed by an arms-length committee that solicits and reviews proposals. The committee consists of a consulting biologist, First Nations representative, helicat operator representatives, academic representative, non-affiliated public representative, as well as the Executive Director of HeliCat Canada. Proposals are solicited from university research departments, consulting wildlife biologists, government agencies, First Nations, and NGO's. An approved list of projects is published annually, along with project details and budgets.

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 implement our best practices in the future. For more information about fund management and procedures please contact HeliCat Canada or speak to your member operator.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

HeliCat Canada operators participating in the Wildlife and 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. For American citizens, tax receipts can be made available for donations made out to the American Wildlife Conservation Foundation, and for Canadian citizens for donations made out to Simon Fraser University. Thank you for your support!