

Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen’s Association

Environmental Stewardship Award

The “Environmental Stewardship Award” is a prestigious award given to a local producer who is a leader in and exemplifies Environmental Stewardship within their respective operation. The Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen’s Association may present this Award Annually at its AGM.

Nomination Process

Nominations can be brought forward to the Award Committee by anyone in the NVRCA operating area including: local association executives, fellow operators, conservation organizations, government, the general public, or self-nomination.

Nomination Timing

Award nominations to the committee must be received by July 31st of the current year for which the year will be awarded. The nomination must be accompanied with information in written form as to how the nominee meets or exceeds each section of the award criteria. Nominations can be delivered by hand, by mail, or by email to:

President of The NVRCA	Chair of the Environmental Stewardship Committee
Janice Tapp PO Box 185 Fraser Lake, BC V0J 1S0 Ph: (250) 699-6466 Email: ttapp@bcgroup.net	Olin Albertson PO Box 1528 Vanderhoof, BC V0J 3A0 Ph: (250) 570-9280 Email: oaalbertson@hotmail.com

Awards Committee

The recipient of the award will be decided upon by the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee will consist of:

- Chair of the NVRCA Environmental Stewardship Committee or designee,
- The Regional Cattlemen’s President or designee,
- The President of each local Cattlemen’s Association or designee,
- A Representative for Regional District of Bulkley Nechako or designee,
- The Chair of the Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society (NEWSS) or designee,
- Interested designees of funding organizations of the Award

Award Criteria

The following criteria will be used for selecting the best candidate for a given year.

Demonstrated Commitment to Good Environmental Management Practices in the Following Areas:

- 1) Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan (20 pts)
- 2) Water and Water Quality Stewardship (20 pts)
 - Manure and Fertilizer Management
 - Stream Crossings
 - Livestock Watering Management
 - Sediment and Erosion Control
 - Protection of Riparian and Fish Habitat
- 3) Wildlife Conservation (10 pts)
 - Managing with Wildlife Values in Mind
 - Range Management and Rotational Grazing Practices
- 4) Crop and Pasture Management (10 pts)
 - Rotational Grazing and Feeding
 - Pesticide and Herbicide Use
 - Noxious Weed Management
 - Fertilizer use
- 5) Petroleum Management (10 pts)
 - Storage
 - Spill Prevention and Clean Up Plan

Demonstrated Willingness to Improve Environmental Stewardship Practices in at least three of the Following Area:

- 1) Completed Self Directed or Partnership Project which Protects or Enhances Fish or Wildlife Habitat or Reduces Wildlife Conflict within the last 5 yrs. (30 pts)
 - Completion of one or more Stream Restoration Projects in Conjunction with NEWSS or a Similar Organization.
 - As Part of a Fencing Plan - Fencing Out Riparian Areas and Protection of Stream Banks
 - As Part of a Water Management Plan - Complete a Limited Access Hardened Bottom Stream Watering Site for Livestock
 - As Part of a Water Management Plan - Completing an Off Stream Livestock Watering Project
 - As Part of a Land Clearing or Wildlife Management Plan – Protect Wildlife Habitat by Leaving Intact Riparian Corridors, Treed Wildlife Habitat Areas, and Wetlands Specifically to Benefit Fish, Wildlife, or Water Quality
 - As Part of a Management Plan - Plant Riparian Vegetation along Streams, Lakes, Drainages or Wetland Corridors

- As Part of a Water Management Plan – Create Dugouts and Wetlands where None Existed that Benefit Wildlife.
- As Part of a Grazing Management Plan – Rotationally Graze Livestock so as to Leave Adequate Vegetation Near Water Bodies to Filter Surface Run Off and Improve Water Quality.
- As Part of a Manure Management Plan – Reduce the Amount of Manure Flowing into Streams and Water Sources to help Improve Water Quality.
- As Part of a Feed or Wildlife Management Plan – Construct a Wildlife Exclusion Fence around Hay Yards to Protect Feed.

Verification of Criteria

Nominees will provide a written summary with representative pictures of how they meet some or all of the award criteria. The top candidate will be asked to provide a tour of their operation to at least one or more members of the awards committee to show how they meet the award criteria.

Selection Process

It is assumed there will be multiple nominations for the Award. The awards committee will evaluate each nominee based on the criteria as outlined in the award criteria section and vote on the highest scoring candidate. Although there may be several worthy nominees, the committee will choose the nominee they believe to be the best environmental steward for that year. If a nominee is a member of the Environmental Stewardship Award committee, they will remove themselves from the committee for that year and another executive member or member from that organization will be appointed to sit on the committee for that award year.

The Award

The recipient for each year may receive the following as Part of the Award Process:

Minimum:

- **An Award Plaque to be hung in the recipient's home or place of business**
- **A sign that can be placed on the entry to the recipient's Farm or Ranch**
- **An article in the local Newspaper about the recipient's achievements**
- **Submission of the Article to the "Beef in BC" magazine about the recipient's achievements**
- **Recognition on the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association Website**

In addition, as funding is secured:

- **A video highlighting the operation and the measures the recipient is taking to be good stewards of the land, would be posted to the Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association's Website**
- **Up to \$2500 may be awarded to the winner to be applied towards the purchase of materials used for an Environmental Stewardship Project on the recipient's operation.**