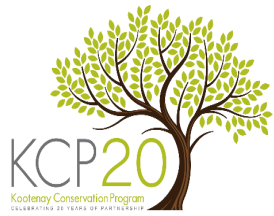


Stronger Together: Accomplishments of 20 Years of Conservation Partnership in the Kootenays



Juliet Craig, Kootenay Conservation Program

Pat Morrow Photo



Program Sponsors



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION



Parks Canada Parcs Canada



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Indigenous Acknowledgement



KCP respectfully acknowledges that we work and live in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Sinixt and Syilx Okanagan.

*Marc-Andre Beaucher
Photo*

1. Overview of Kootenay Conservation Program
2. Accomplishments being 'Strong Together'
3. Role of Local Governments in Conservation



About Kootenay Conservation Program



CONSERVING WORKING LANDSCAPES

East
Kootenay
Conservation
Program

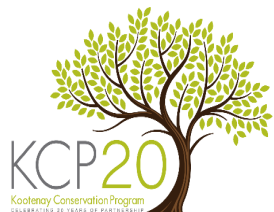
A Framework for Conservation on Private Land

“To have landscapes in the Kootenay that sustain biological diversity and ecological processes, support economic and social well-being, and have communities that demonstrate the principles of environmental stewardship for future generations”

Local Government Issues



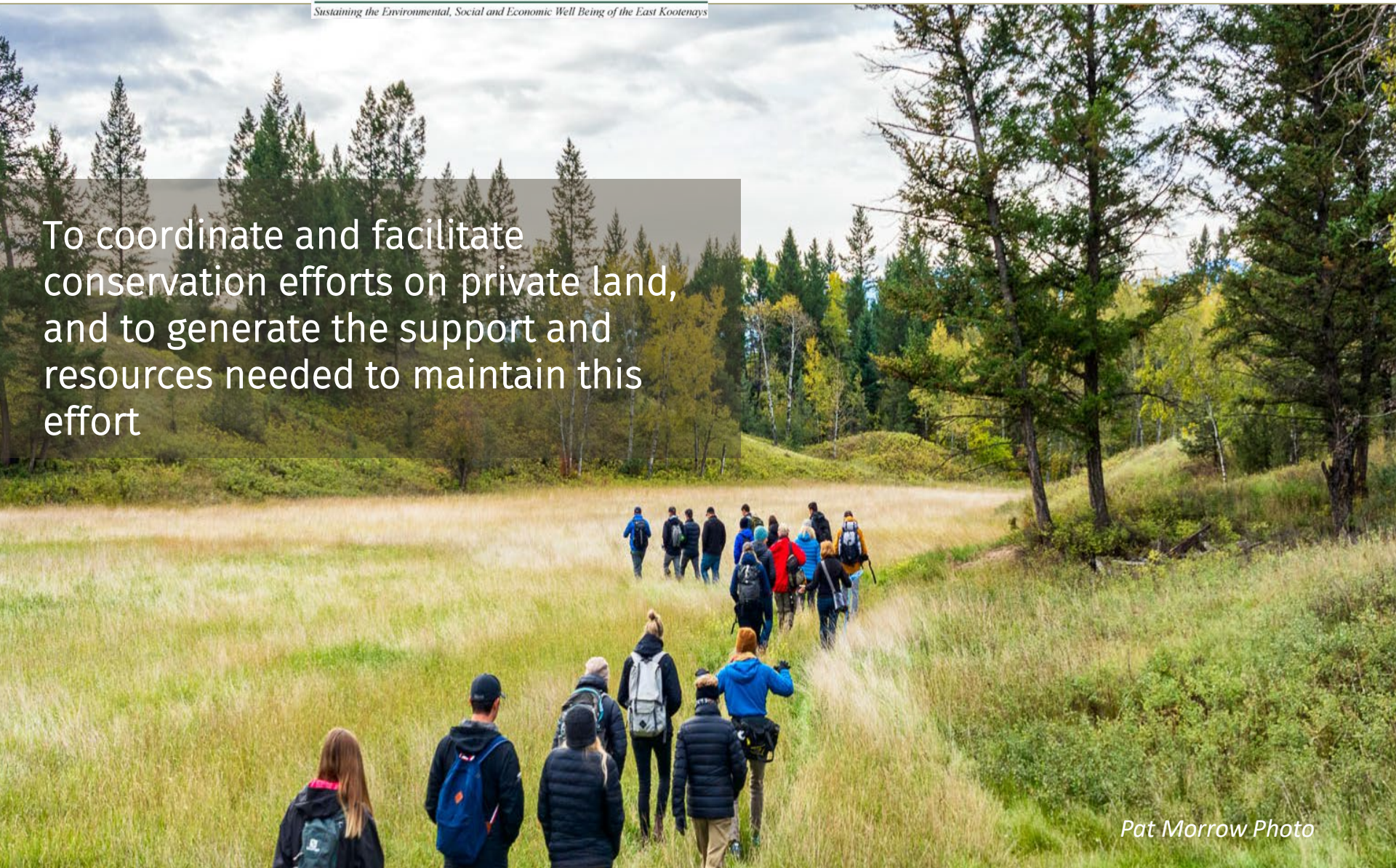
- Sustainability
- Clean water
- Climate mitigation
- Climate change adaptation



Sustaining the Environmental, Social and Economic Well Being of the East Kootenays

KCP Mandate

To coordinate and facilitate conservation efforts on private land, and to generate the support and resources needed to maintain this effort



Pat Morrow Photo



Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors

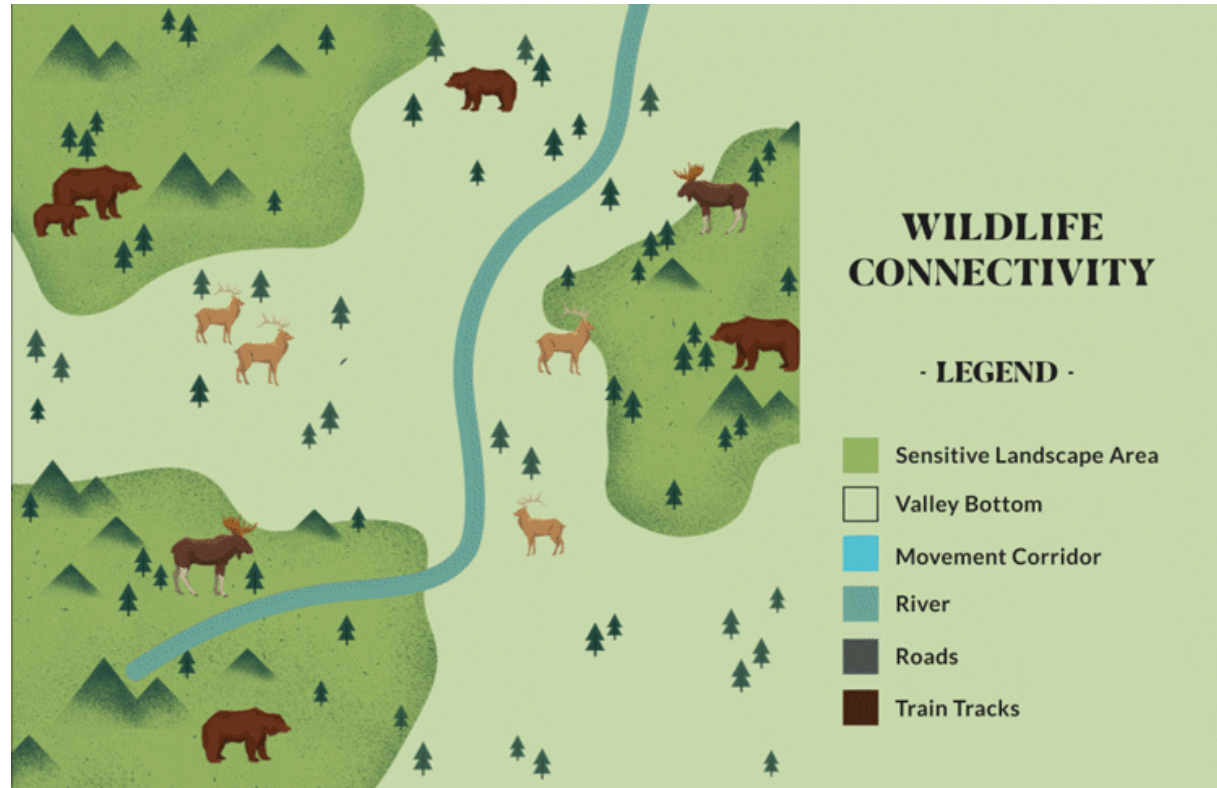
Jodi Hilty, Graeme L. Worboys, Annika Keeley, Stephen Woodley, Barbara Lausche, Harvey Locke, Mark Carr, Ian Pulsford, James Pittock, J. Wilson White, David M. Theobald, Jessica Levine, Melly Reuling, James E.M. Watson, Rob Ament and Gary M. Tabor

Craig Groves, Series Editor

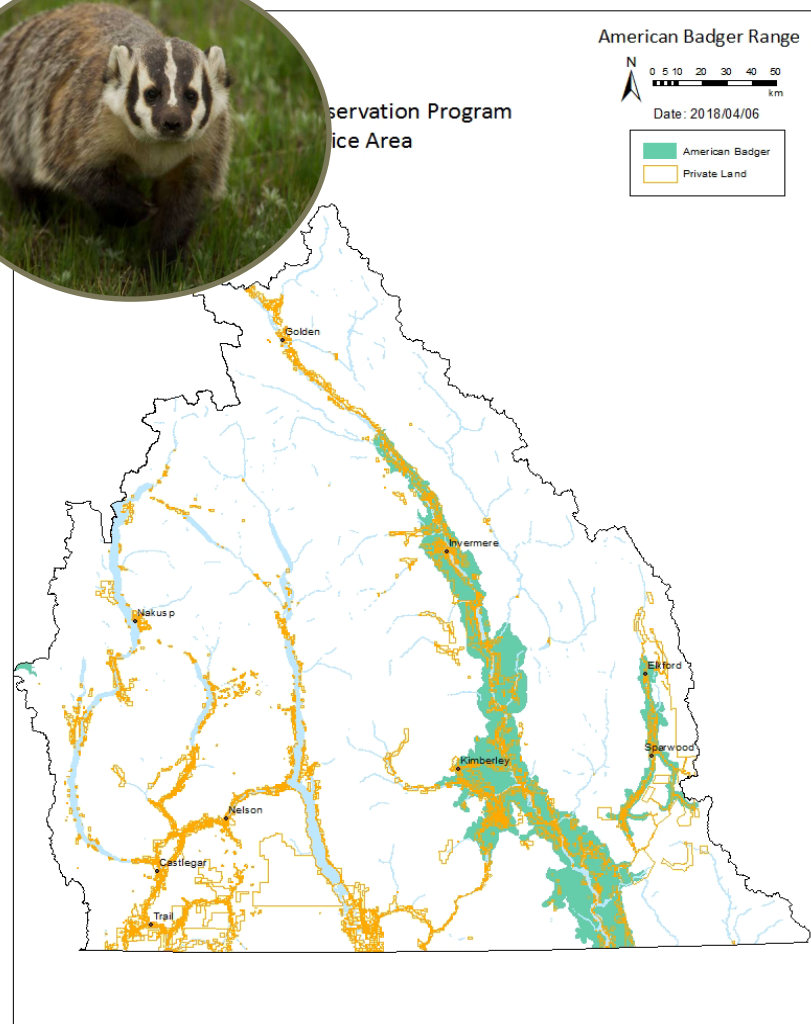
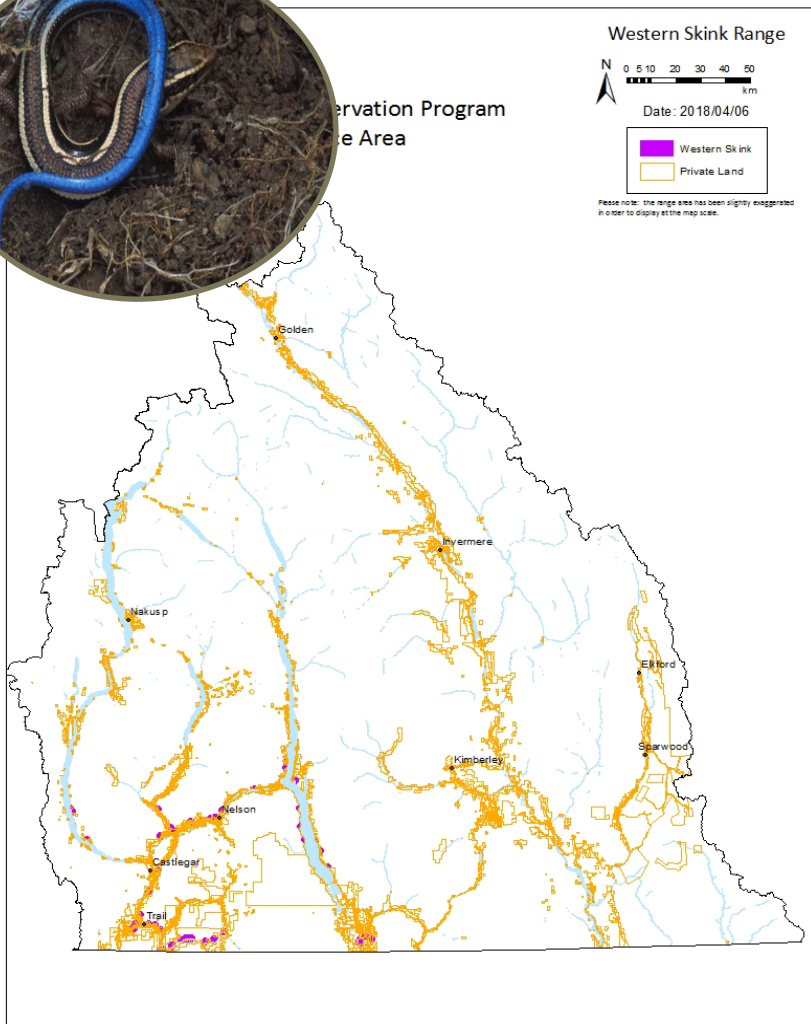


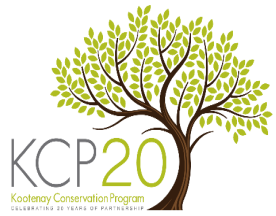
Developing capacity for a protected planet

Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 30



Low Elevation Spaces





Low Elevation Habitats



Marc-Andre Beacuher Photo

Conserving Private Land in the Kootenays

9 MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION

HOME IS WHERE THE HABITAT IS

- 1 FRESH WATER, CLEAN AIR**
KEEP THE GREEN MACHINE CLEAN.

When healthy, the natural world offers an abundance of goods and services, including clean air and fresh water. It is not just flora and fauna that rely on these systems, human communities also depend on functional ecosystems. Many ecological services take place on private land. The maintenance and restoration of these services supports the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and much more.
- 2 ECOSYSTEM THREATS**
THE LOW DOWN ON THE DOWN LOW.

Habitats and species in the Kootenays face many threats, most of which are linked to human activity. Ecosystems most heavily impacted by human activity are low elevation grasslands, forests, wetlands and riparian areas. Although the scale and type of threat varies, private land conservation can help to protect or enhance impacted or threatened ecosystems.
- 3 VALLEY BOTTOMS**
LOW LANDS, HIGH VALUES.

In the Kootenay region, high elevation and mountainous areas receive more protection, usually in the form of parks. Low elevation, valley bottom areas tend to be underrepresented. Private land conservation therefore focuses on valley bottom ecosystems: areas with high ecological significance, that lack other provincial protections, and that may face threats from development or industrial activities.
- 4 WETLANDS**
LEND A HAND, FOR WETLANDS.

Often known as nature's kidney, wetlands improve water quality, store floodwater, and support surface water flow during dry spells. Plus, they provide habitat for more than 30% of British Columbia's species of conservation concern. Today 1/4 of all remaining wetlands in the Kootenays are found on private land, making conservation of these ecologically-significant areas a high priority.
- 5 SPECIES AT RISK**
EVER THINK...ABOUT THE SKINK?

Over 350 species of plants, animals and fungus are considered "at risk" in British Columbia. More than half of known occurrences in the Kootenays are on valley bottom private land, with higher concentrations in the East Kootenays. That means private land conservation is essential in ensuring species have what they need to survive, especially those at risk.

CURIOS ABOUT SPECIES AT RISK IN THE KOOTENAYS? HERE ARE JUST A FEW:

American Badger - Little Brown Myotis Bat - Northern Leopard Frog - Western Skink - Grizzly Bear - Rubber Boa - Western Racer - Lewis's Woodpecker - Spalding's Campion - Gilllette's Checkerspot - Butterfly
- 6 OLD-GROWTH FORESTS**
TAKE A STAND, FOR THE TREES.

Low elevation old-growth forests support the health of entire watersheds and provide critical habitat for numerous species. Many of the Kootenay region's low elevation old-growth forests have been compromised due to human activities, including forestry practices and reservoirs created by hydroelectric dams. In the Kootenays, many of the remaining old-growth forests are located in moist valley bottom areas.
- 7 GRASSLANDS & DRY FORESTS**
WIDE OPEN SKIES, WILD OPEN SPACES.

More than 30% of the province's species at risk call grasslands home. Within the Kootenay region, grasslands and dry forests are more abundant at low elevations and are often found on private land. Without sound conservation and stewardship of these lands, the ecological integrity of these fragile spaces will continue to erode. As well, ongoing stewardship can promote long-term fire resilience: less ground fuel, more healthy habitats.
- 8 CLIMATE CHANGE**
A CHANCE TO WEATHER THE STORM.

Warmer temperatures, fluctuating precipitation patterns and new wildfire regimes will cause many ecosystems to change. However, not all ecosystems will change at the same rate. Climate change refugia are places within a landscape that will not experience the impacts as quickly, giving plant and animal species time to adapt. Connecting refugia is key, as it provides habitat corridors between these places, on both regional and large landscape scales. In the face of a changing climate, conservation of these critical locations can help to create a more ecologically-resilient region.
- 9 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**
SAFE PASSAGE FOR ALL, FROM BIG TO SMALL.

In the Kootenay region, human population is densest at valley bottoms, making travelling across valleys difficult or impossible. Private land conservation can help to create wildlife corridors for a number of different species, including grizzly bears, wolverine, elk and mountain caribou. In many cases, the conservation of key parcels of low elevation private land ensures landscape-level habitat connectivity, thereby conserving the ecological integrity of much larger areas.

- Fresh water, clean air
- Ecosystem threats
- Valley bottoms
- Wetlands
- Species at risk
- Old-growth forests
- Grasslands and dry forests
- Climate change
- Wildlife corridors
- Conservation options



KCP Partners by Year



The number of KCP partners grew nearly 250% in the last 20 years, from 36 in 2002 to 85 in 2022.



Local Government Partnership



WILDLIFE • FISH • HABITAT • WETLANDS • GRASSLANDS

Local Government Forum

13 MAR 2019

TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION IN THE KOOTENAYS

Photo: Jeffery G. Curran

About the Local Government Forum
 People in the Kootenays value fish and wildlife and their habitats, clean water and aquatic systems, and open spaces like grasslands. Local governments play a key role in protecting these values. Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is working with local government representatives to deliver a forum for local government elected officials and staff on tools for conservation in the Kootenays. This forum will showcase examples of how local governments have successfully integrated conservation into their activities as well as explore local tools, resources, and needs of local government in the Kootenays.

Location: Creston
 Creston Community Complex
 Optional evening Nibble & Network on March 12 at Ramada

FEATURING...
 Knowledgeable guest speakers including Deb Curran (Green Bylaws Toolkit), Scott Boswell (Okanagan Conservation Collaboration Program), and Michael Proctor (Trans-Border Grizzly Bear Project).

REGISTER ONLINE AT
kootenayconservation.ca/localgovernmentforum

MORE INFORMATION
info@kootenayconservation.ca • 1-844-775-2722

We are grateful to our funders for this event:

KCP Conservation Approach



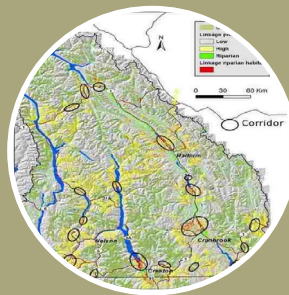
Support
conservation:
**Local
Conservation
Funds**



Promote
stewardship:
**Stewardship
Solutions Toolkit**



Develop
collaborative
priorities:
**Conservation
Action Forums**



Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement



Local Conservation Funds



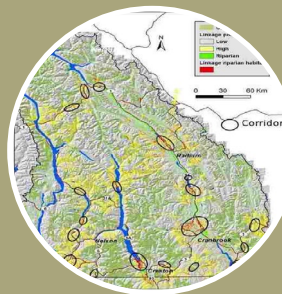
Support
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**Stewardship
Solutions Toolkit**



Develop
collaborative
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**Conservation
Action Forums**



Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement





Local Conservation Funds in British Columbia

A Guide for Local Governments and Community Organizations

- ✓ Local government service
- ✓ Dedicated fund for conservation projects
- ✓ Parcel or property tax
- ✓ Support local priorities



How Local Conservation Funds Work

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Finance
2021 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE
 Issued under the Taxation (Rural Area) Act

1 DUE DATE: July 2, 2021
2 eTaxBC Enrolment Code: ab99
 May 12, 2021

ELIZABETH M SMITH
 300 MAIN ST
 MAYNE ISLAND BC

3 Jurisdiction: 764
 4 Roll Number: 90500 000
 5 Folio Number: 764 00000 000
 6 Account Number: RPT-0000-0000
 7 Letter Id: XXXXXXXXXX
 8 Property Address: MAIN ST
 MAYNE ISLAND BC
 000 000 000
 9 PID: Legal Description
 10 Lot XX, Plan V1P00000, Section 0, Cowichan Land District, Portion MAYNE ISLAND

To claim your 2021 Home Owner Grant, apply online at gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant		13 Rate	Reg Grant A	Reg Grant B	Asst1 Grant C
11 Class	12 Land Value	Improvements	492.07	492.07	492.07
		1.38650	0.00	(492.07)	(492.07)
			492.07	0.00	0.00
			199.71	199.71	159.71
			26.44	20.44	20.44

14 Provincial Services	15 School	16 Net School	17 Provincial Rural Tax	18 Local Services	19 Parcel Tax	20 Residual Home Owner Grant
01	01	01	01	01	01	01
73,900	73,900	73,900	73,900	73,900	73,900	73,900
281,000	281,000	281,000	281,000	281,000	281,000	281,000
0.45000	0.87222	0.14914	0.57541	0.04110	0.00	0.00
136.650	236.57	52.93	204.21	14.59	49.96	49.96
	26.44	378.82	64.39	0.07	220.52	220.52
		204.21	14.59	0.07	(77.93)	(352.93)
		159.71	14.59	0.07	1,326.39	1,951.28
		20.44	14.59	0.07	0.00	(200.09)
			14.59	0.07	1,896.28	(200.09)
			0.07	0.00	1,896.19	1,526.19
			0.07	0.00	(200.09)	851.19
			0.07	0.00	1,896.19	1,526.19
			0.07	0.00	(200.09)	851.19

TOTAL 2021 PROPERTY TAXES

Payments/Credits Applied

BALANCE

The Rural Property Tax Notice is for the 2021 calendar year and has been sent to all registered property owners.

Keep the top portion for your records

22 REMITTANCE ADVICE
 2021 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Finance

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 9446 Sm Proy Govt
 Victoria BC V8N 9V6

FOID NUMBER: 764 000000 000
 ACCOUNT NUMBER: RPT-0000-0000
 DUE DATE: Jul 2, 2021

A - Pay this amount if you are not applying for the home owner grant: **23 1,896.19**
 B - Pay this amount if you are applying for the regular home owner grant: **24 1,126.19**
 C - Pay this amount if you are applying for the enhanced home owner grant: **25 851.19**

See reverse for payment options and how to claim your home owner grant

PAYABLE BY: ELIZABETH M SMITH
 300 MAIN ST
 MAYNE ISLAND BC

013403671687



How Local Conservation Funds Work



Project Proposals

KLLCF funding is available for conservation projects that result in the reduction to a known threat to biodiversity. Projects that are technically sound and effective, and provide value for money through partnerships with other funders will have priority. Proponents must be a registered not-for-profit organization, First Nations band, or local government. Unqualified groups or organizations may partner with a qualified organization. Multi-year projects are acceptable to a maximum three years. A Technical Review Committee will review project proposals and make recommendations to the RDCK for final funding approval.

Annual Timeline

- **August 15** – Call for Proposals
- **October 29** – Applications Due
- **November** – Technical Review Completed
- **January** – RDCK Review Completed
- **February** – RDCK Board of Director's Final Approval
- **March** – Applicants Notified
- **April** – Funding Agreement Documents Finalized

Note: Land acquisition or covenant proposals may be submitted at any time during the year provided there is sufficient time for the KCP Technical Review Committee and the RDCK to review proposals. Any money not allocated from the Local Conservation Fund in any given

Application Requirements

Proposals must meet the Mandatory Requirements before they will be considered. These are:

1. Projects must be delivered in the **Fund Service Area** where the Local Conservation Property Parcel Tax is collected in the rural areas around Kootenay Lake, specifically Electoral Areas A, D, and E ([click here for map](#)) within the RDCK.
2. Projects must address at least one IUCN threat to biodiversity as specified in the **Terms of Reference**.
3. Projects must address at least one of the Direct Conservation Action priorities ([see Table 5](#)) indicated in the **KLLCF Guidance Document**. The Executive Summary of the guidance document can be found [here](#).
4. Proponents must be non-profit, have registered society status or must partner with an organization that has registered society status.
5. Proponents must be prepared to make a 10 minute presentation on the outcomes of their work on an annual basis, in addition to submitting a written report.

Grant Application Forms

The 2022 intake for the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund has closed.

Grant Reporting Forms

For 2021 Projects, Final Report is due January 31. Please check back for the form.

Video Guidelines

- [Video Guidelines for KLLCF Projects](#)

Securement Application

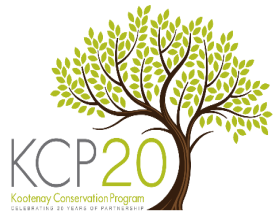
- [KLLCF Securement Project Application](#)

Securement application forms can be found at info@kootenayconservation.ca

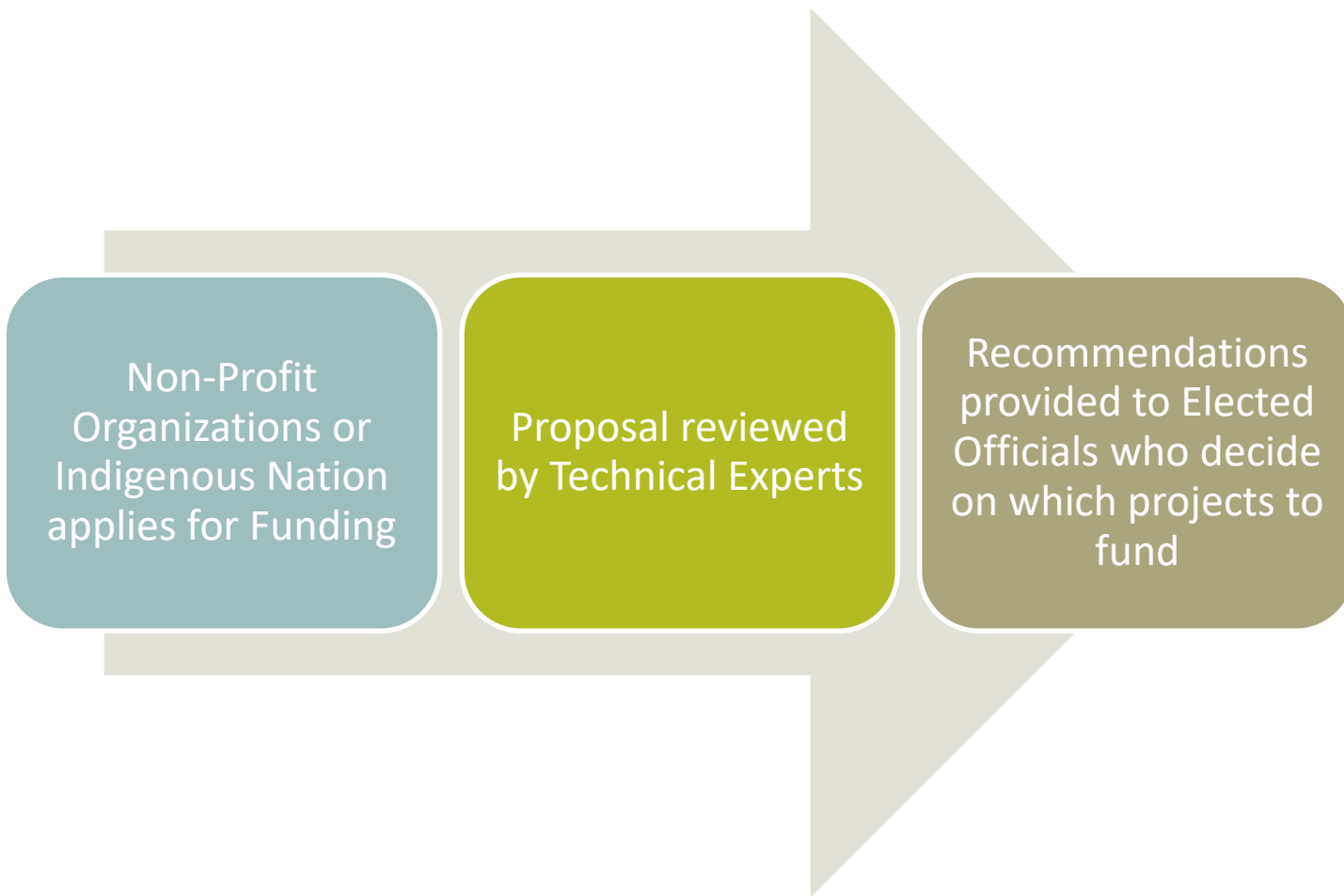
Form Help

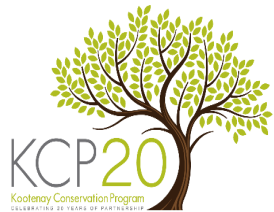
Please follow these instructions for filling out the forms:

1. Install the most recent version of Adobe Acrobat Pro/Reader application.
2. Save the form to your local drive on your computer.
3. Open the Adobe Acrobat Pro/Reader application.
4. On the Acrobat Reader menu, go to File->Open. Open the file from where you saved it.
5. Complete the form and save the changes before submitting.



How Local Conservation Funds Work





Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

CLEAN WATER
WILDLIFE
OPEN SPACE

©2008 NICEL FINNEY

LOCAL
CONSERVATION
FUND

On November 15th 2008

VOTE YES
to the
**LOCAL
CONSERVATION
FUND**



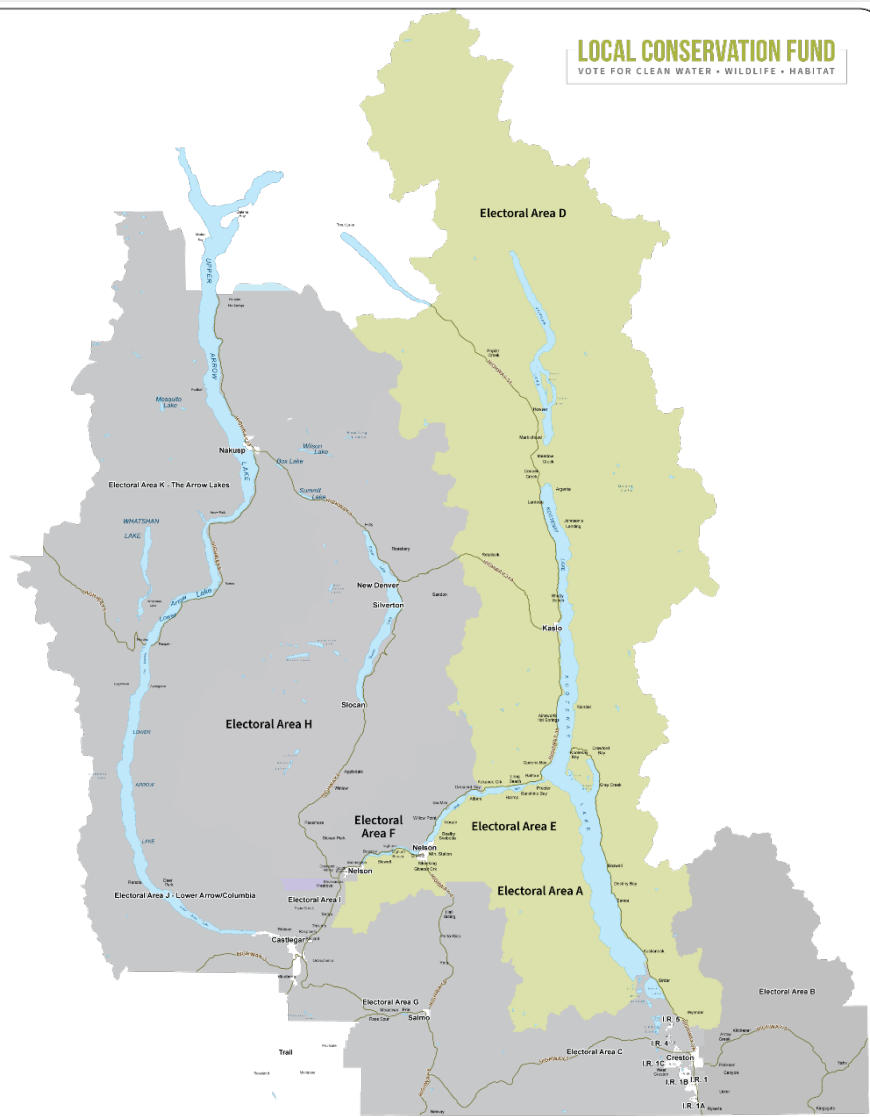
YES

**“demonstrate innovation,
leadership and collaboration in
sustainable land use in BC”**
Real Estate Foundation of BC



RDCK Local Conservation Fund

LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND
VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • WILDLIFE • HABITAT



- Kootenay Lake (RDCK)
- Electoral Areas A, D & E (green area)



Local Conservation Fund Projects



Abel Creek Culvert Rehabilitation Project



Bat Roost Habitat Enhancement in the Columbia Valley



Boulder Creek Diversion Project



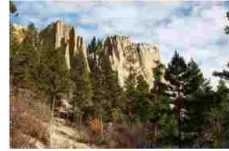
Climate and Water Conservation Action Initiatives



Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands



Dutch Findlay Ecosystem Restoration



Hoodoo Conservation Property Management Project



Kinsmen Beach Shoreline Restoration Project



Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education



Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship



Columbia Wetlands Edgewater Purchase



Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey



Kootenay Community Bat Project



Kootenay River Ranch Land Stewardship Activities



Lake Enid Restoration and Conservation Project



Lake Windermere Water Monitoring & Education



Community Monitoring and Removal of Aquatic Invasive Species



Darkwoods Ecosystem Restoration at Tye



Evaluating Bat Boxes as a Mitigation for White-Nose Syndrome



Fish/Bear Lakes Western Toad Mortality Mitigation Implementation Along Highway 31A



Kootenay Lake Osprey Nest Monitoring



Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guidance Document Outreach



Kootenay Watershed Science



Land Securement for Conservation Purposes at Cottonwood Lake



Grizzly Bear Coexistence Solutions



Habitat Restoration for Beavers along the Duncan Lardeau River Floodplains



Harrop Wetland Enhancement Project



Knotweed Removal on Private Lands



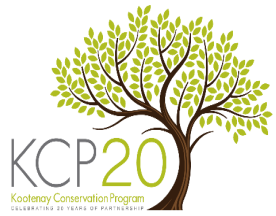
Next Creek Property Acquisition



Western Painted Turtle Conservation



Wildflowers for Pollinators



Supporting Farm Stewardship



Restoring Ecosystems

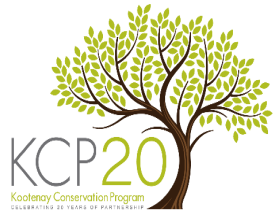


Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict



Creating Pollinator Meadows

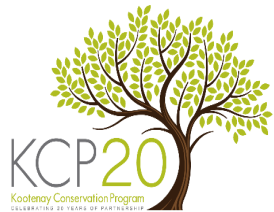




Habitat Restoration for Wildlife



Ben Mitchel Banks Photo



Land Acquisition for Conservation



Cottonwood Lake Preservation Society Photo



Improving Sensitive Areas





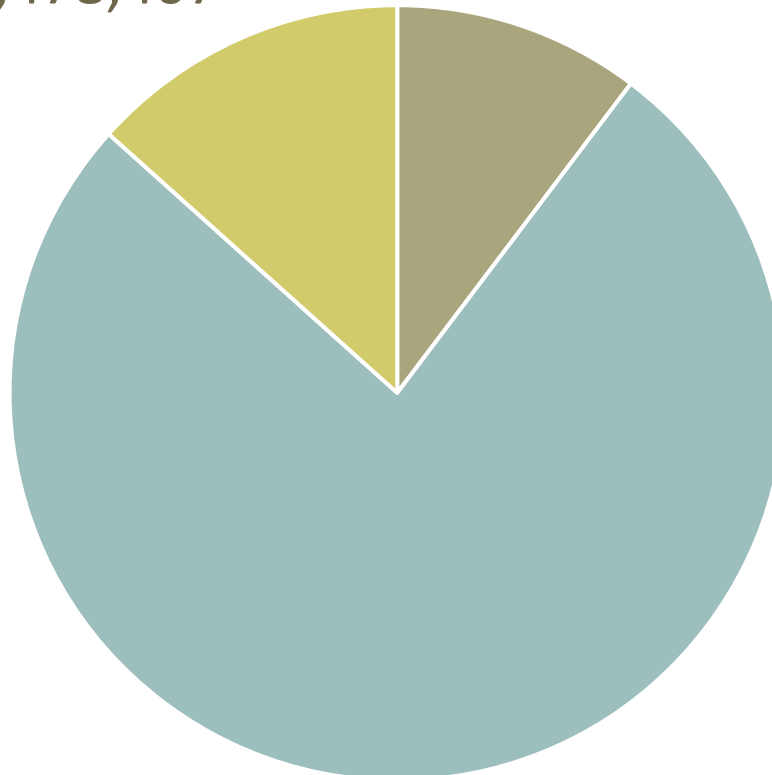
Economic Benefits



Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

\$3,478,407

\$2,680,612



- CVLCF Contribution
- Leveraged \$
- In Kind Value

\$19,871,184



Kootenay Region Research Study

Prepared for Kootenay Conservation Program

www.kootenayconservation.ca

March 1, 2019

Prepared by:

NRG Research Group

Kim Scott, Vice President
604.676.5641

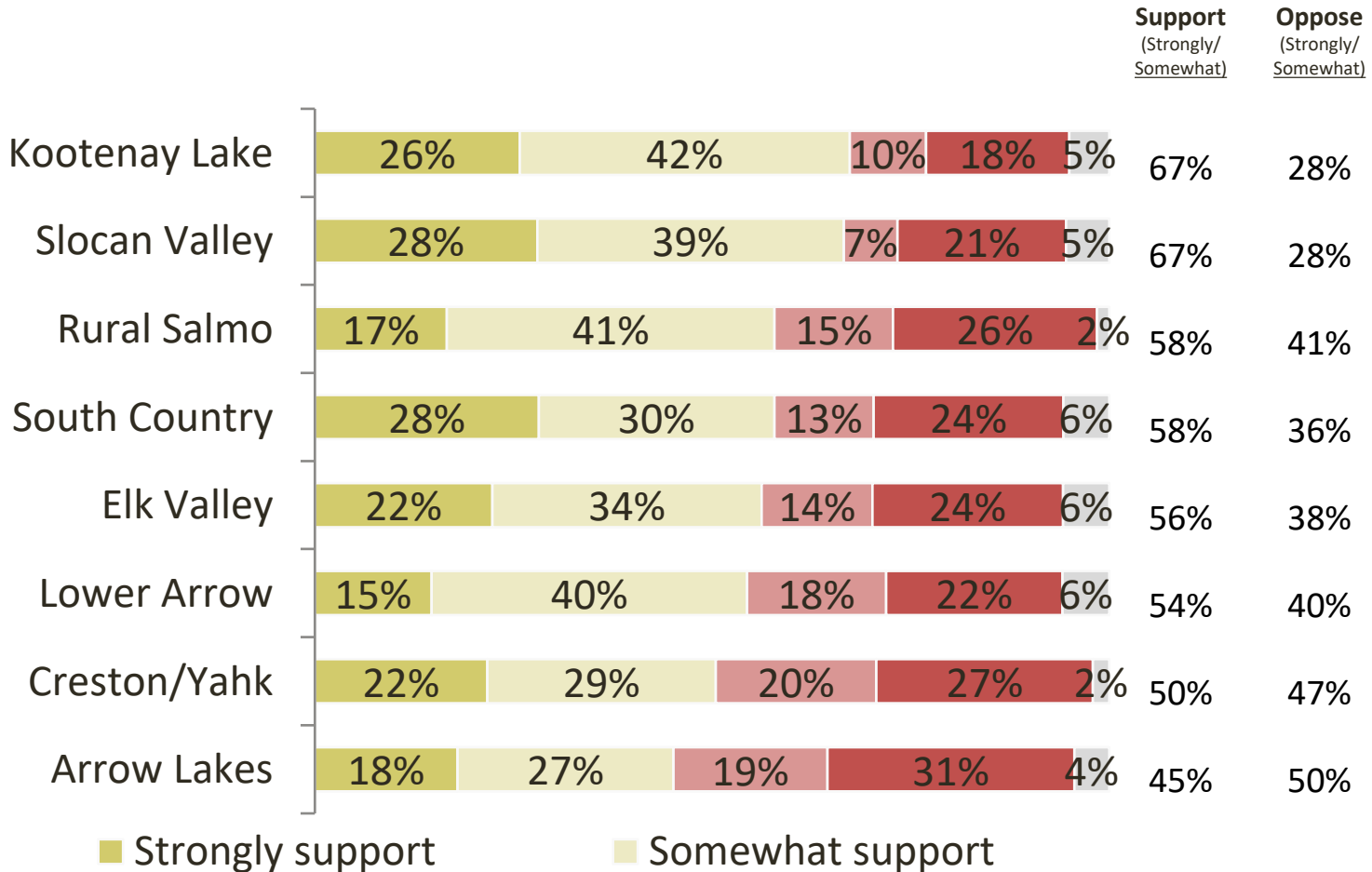
Cam Mathewson, Senior Research
Consultant
604.676.3994

enrg RESEARCH GROUP



Suite 1380-1100 Melville Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 4A6

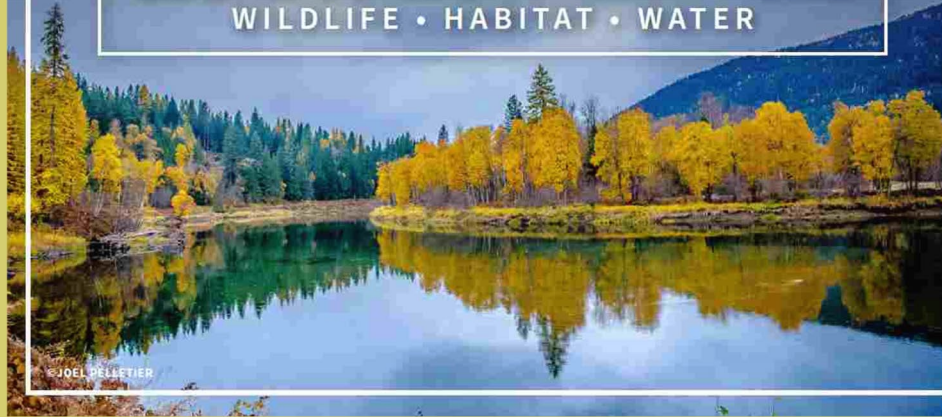
Market Research (2018)



Area H Referendum – October 15, 2022

LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND

WILDLIFE • HABITAT • WATER



© JOEL PELSETIER

A Local Conservation Fund will create a dedicated fund for high priority local conservation projects. This service is being proposed for the Slokan Valley. Please vote in the referendum on **October 15, 2022.**

 **PLEASE VOTE**

LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND
VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • WILDLIFE • HABITAT



Browse Subtopics

- Latest News
- News Archives
- 2022 News Archive
- 2021 News Archive
- 2020 News Archive
- 2019 News Archive
- 2018 News Archive
- Public Notices



Text size - + Google Translate Share this page on

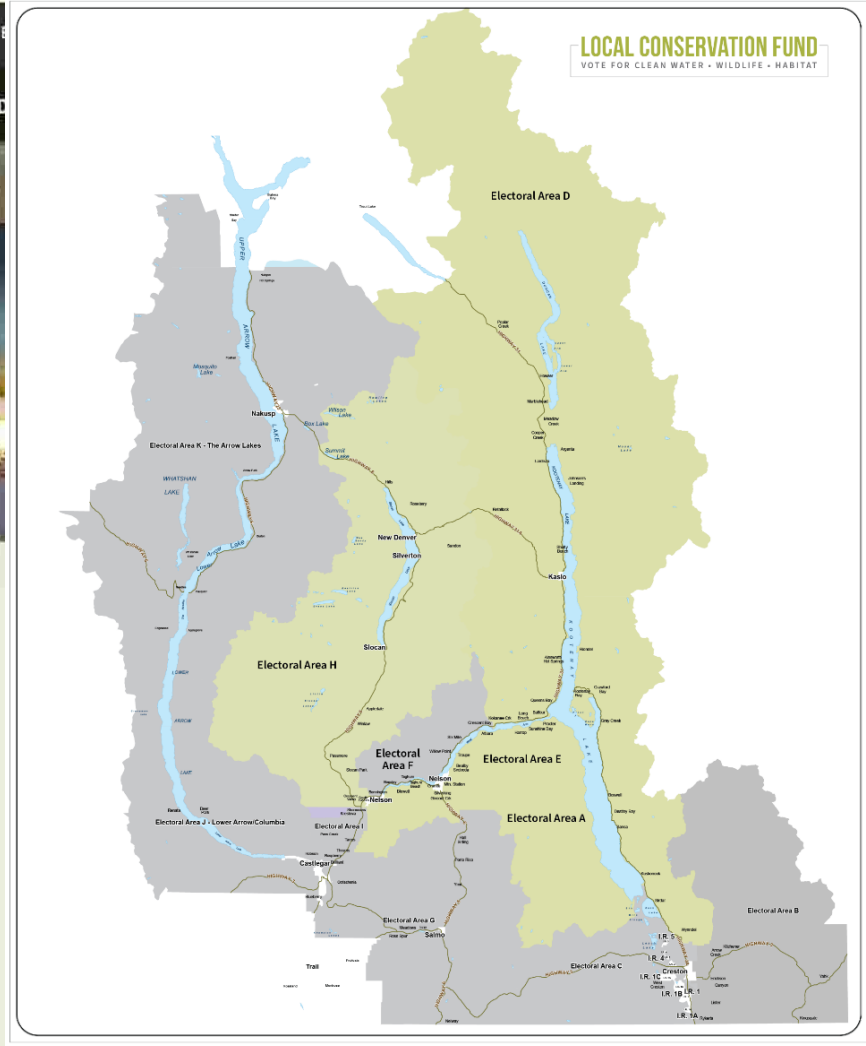
Referendum on Local Conservation Fund in Electoral Area H passes

October 15, 2022

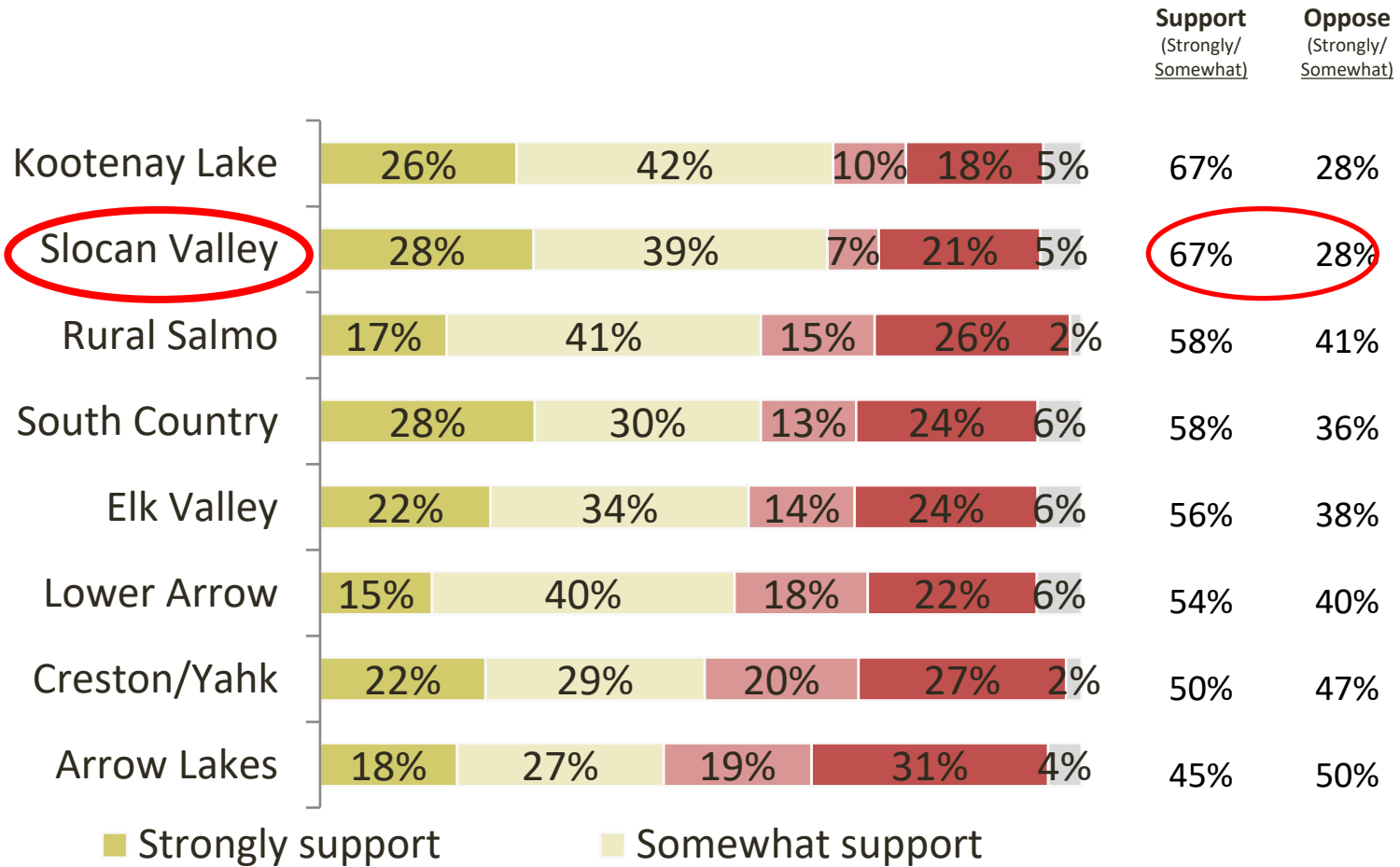
Nelson, BC: Electoral Area H in the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has voted in favour of joining the RDCK Local Conservation Fund service. The Chief Elections Officer of the RDCK has declared the unofficial Assent Voting Results from the October 15 referendum. The official results will be determined and reported by Wednesday, October 19 at 4:00 pm.

[Unofficial signed results \[PDF - 713 KB\]](#)

The unofficial results are as follows:



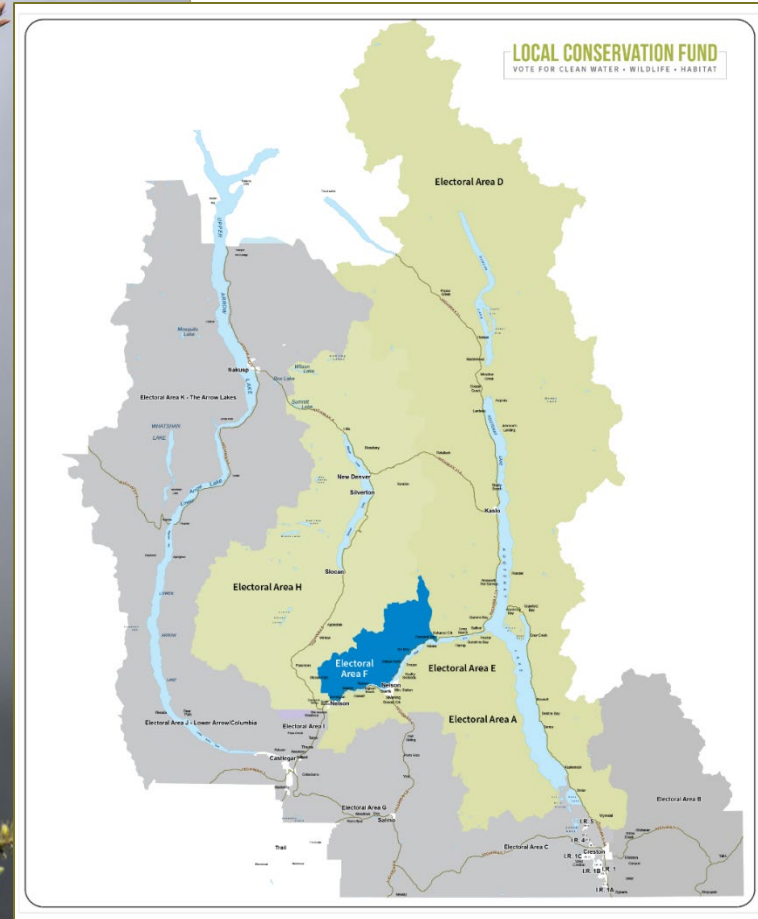
Market Research (2018)



Alternative Approval Process for Area F



Madeleine Guenette Photo



➤ Options for public assent process for municipalities to join LCF Service:

1. Referendum;
2. Alternative Approval Process; OR,
3. Municipal council resolution





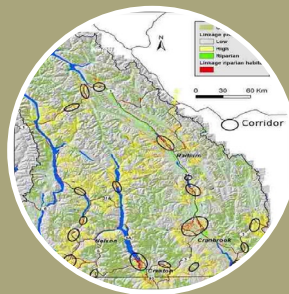
Support
conservation:
**Local
Conservation
Funds**



Promote
stewardship:
**Stewardship
Solutions Toolkit**



Develop
collaborative
priorities:
**Conservation
Action Forums**

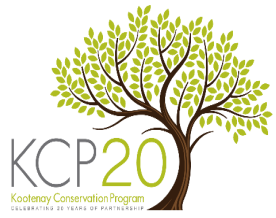


Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement



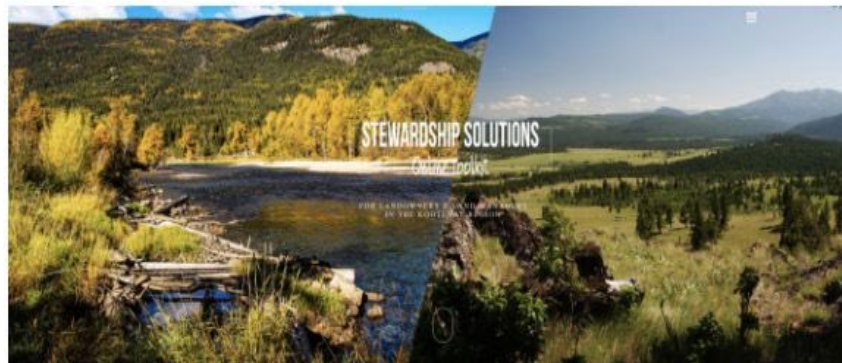
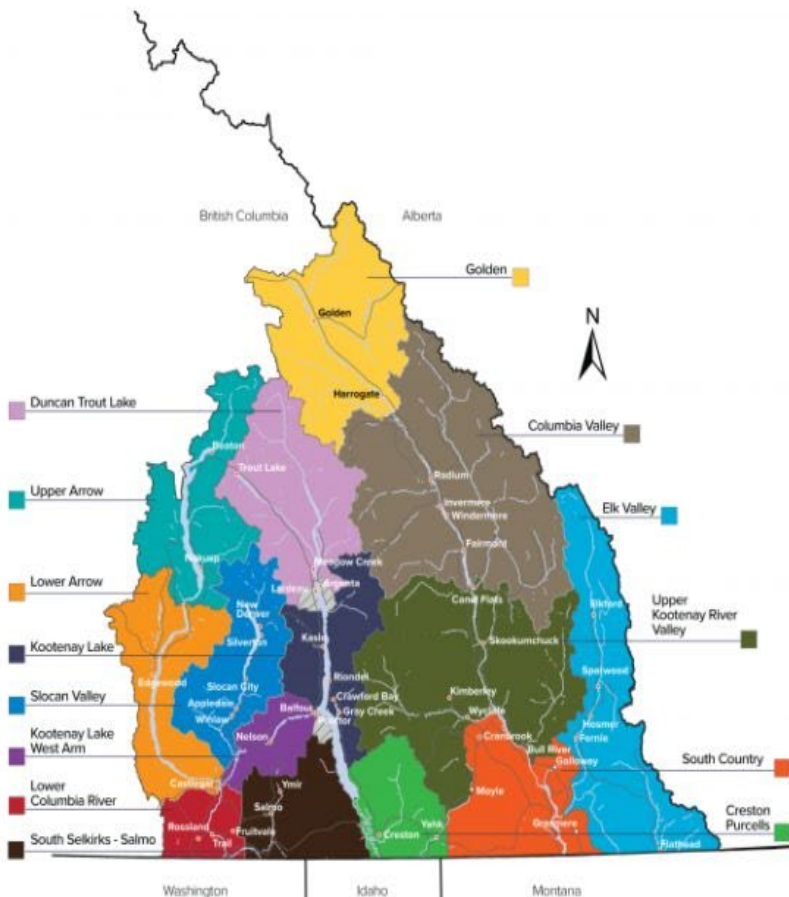


Importance of Voluntary Stewardship



Kootenay Native Plant Society Photo

Stewardship Solutions Toolkit

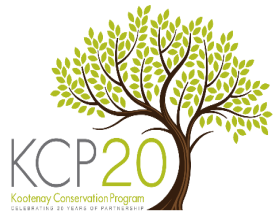


This online toolkit features Kootenay-based resources that offer “solutions” for issues that arise around private land stewardship.

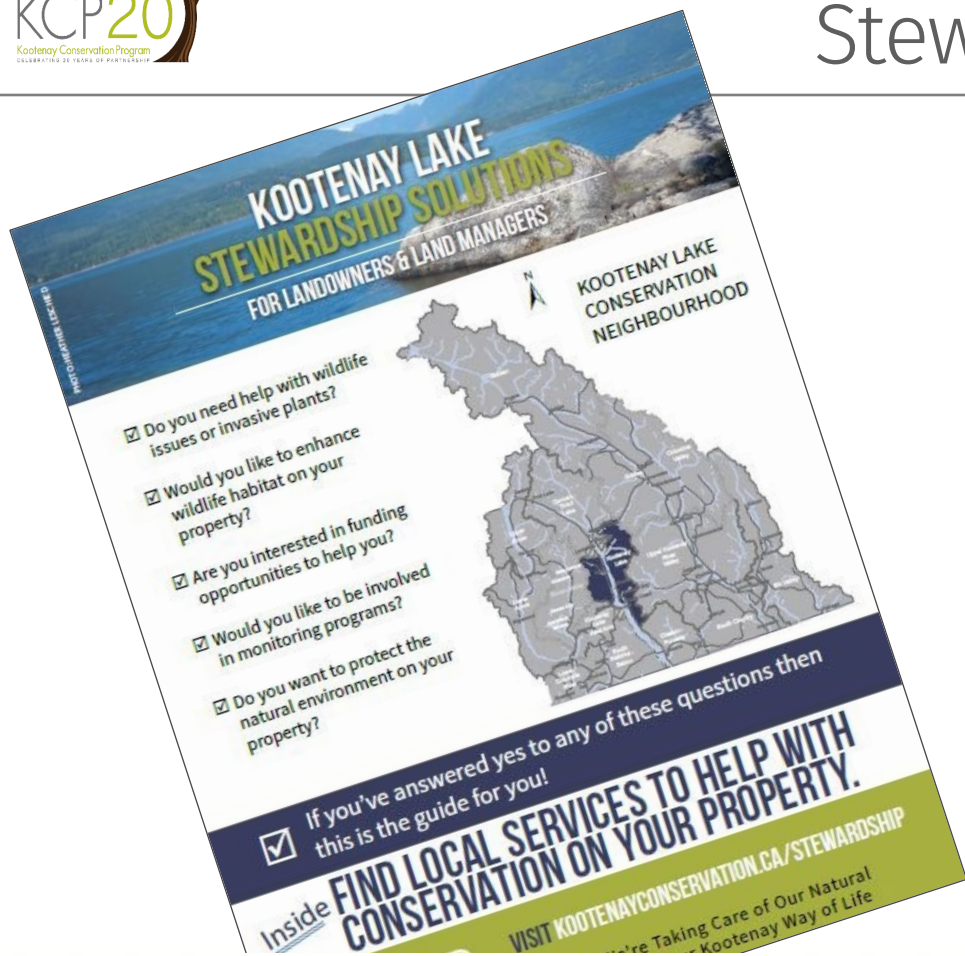
These local organizations may offer information, tools, incentives, services, learning opportunities, and/or funding for stewardship activities.

They focus on such topics as wildlife, species at risk, invasive plants, water quantity and quality, forest and grassland ecology, fire interface management, and habitat restoration to name a few.

<<< CLICK THE MAP TO ENTER THE TOOLKIT



Stewardship Solutions Toolkit



Since its launch in 2019, the Toolkit has been accessed by 2,695 people, over 3,876 sessions and 10,043 page views.

46 Stewardship Solutions across 14 Conservation Neighbourhoods

Conservation Action Forums



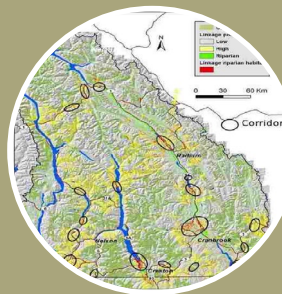
Support
conservation:
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Conservation
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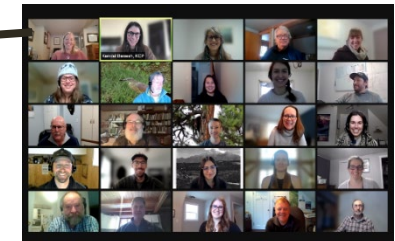
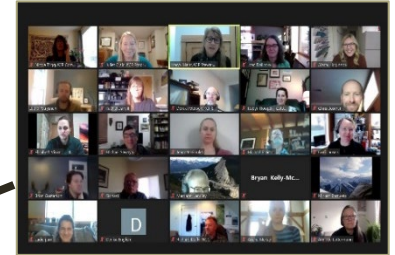
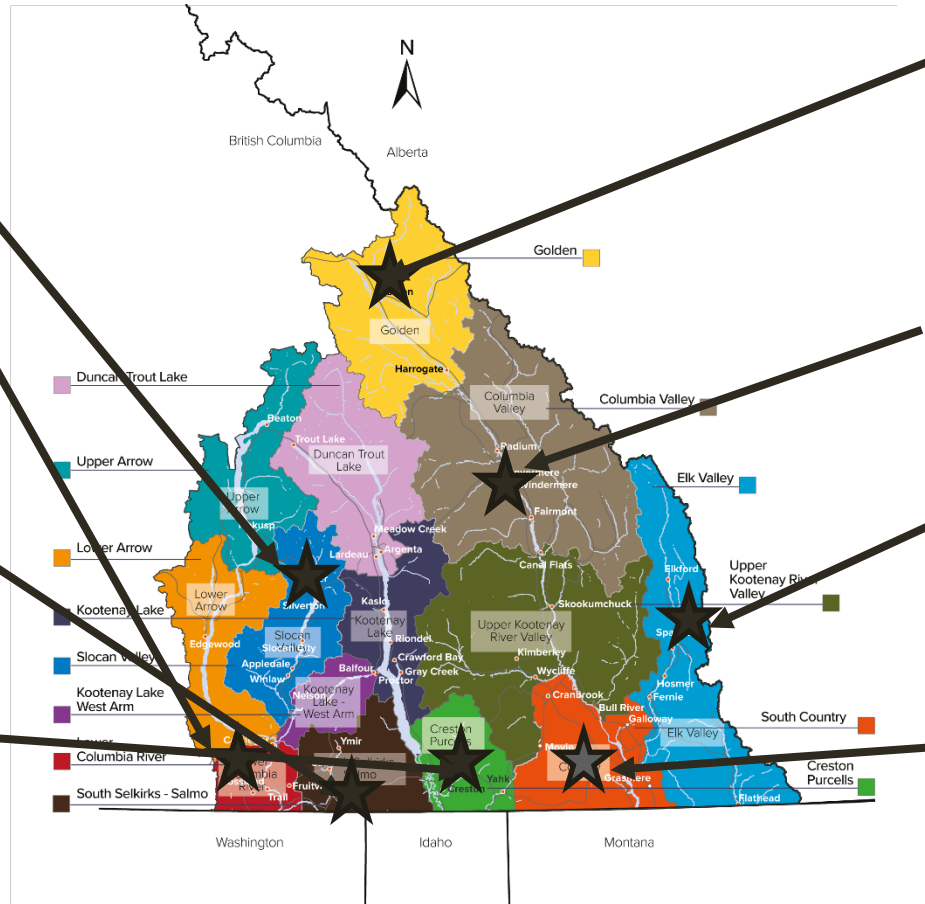
Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect

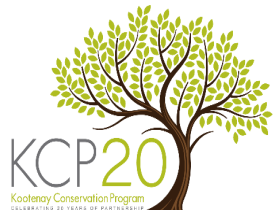


Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement

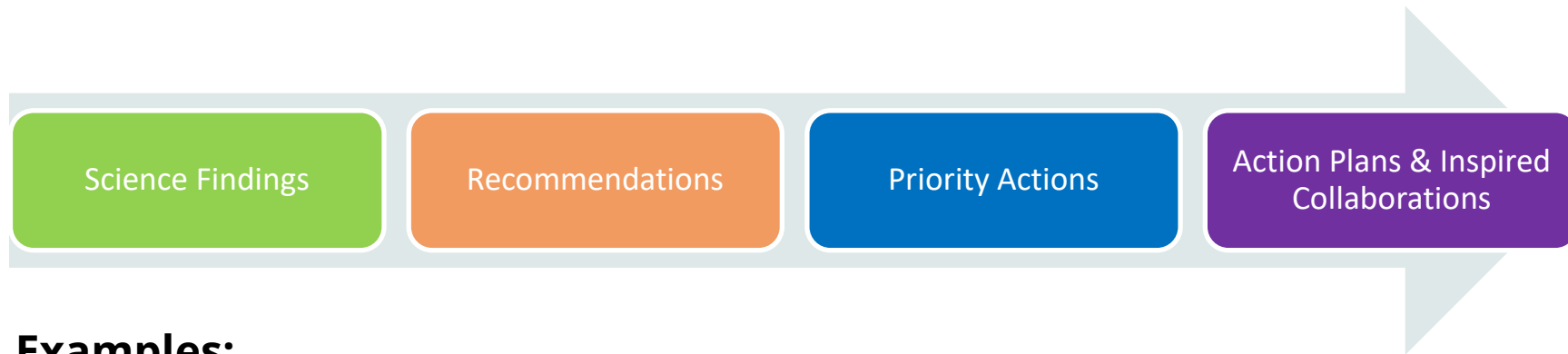


Conservation Action Forums





Conservation Action Forum Priorities



Examples:

- Protect, monitor and mitigate decreases in hydrologic inflows into the Columbia River and Wetlands
- Propose designation of the “Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor”
- Encourage the use and sharing of Best Management Practices at the local level
- Bighorn sheep habitat restoration
- Perform Fire Maintained Ecosystem Restoration
- Identify and Prioritize Conserving Multi-Species Wildlife Corridors
- Restore and improve ecosystem function and adaptive capacity to climate change through the implementation of climate-resilient projects

Conservation Action Forums



**Conservation Action Forum
Priority Actions Completed/In Progress**





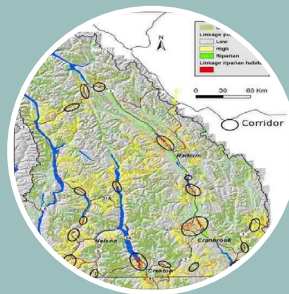
Support
conservation:
**Local
Conservation
Funds**



Promote
stewardship:
**Stewardship
Solutions Toolkit**



Develop
collaborative
priorities:
**Conservation
Action Forums**

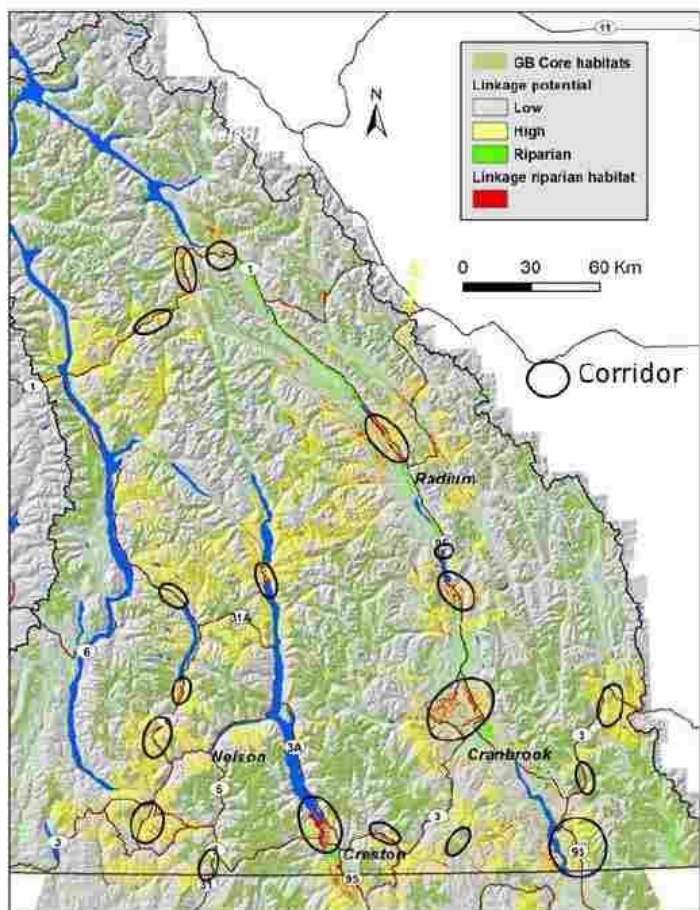


Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement







- Dr. Michael Proctor *Trans-Border Grizzly Project*
- Proctor and Mahr *Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change*

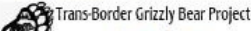

Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change

Year 1 Annual Report



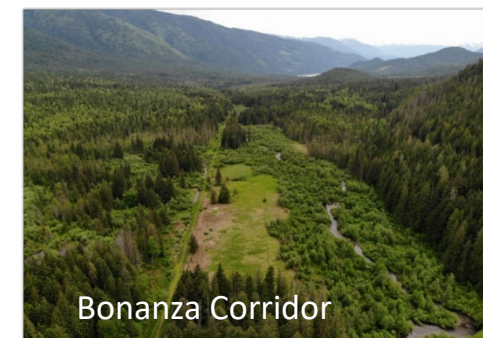
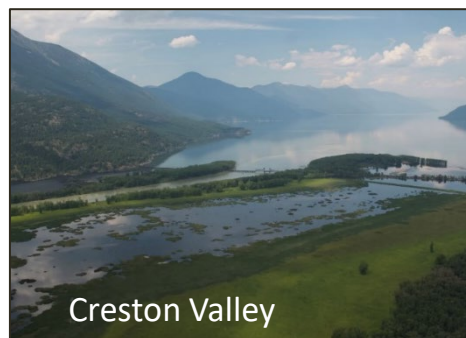
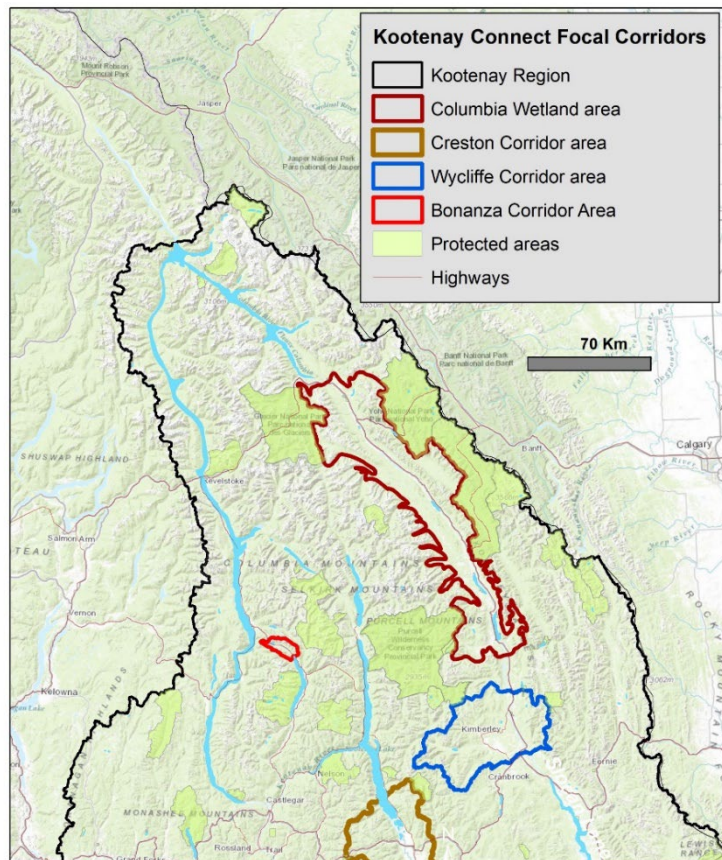


eco mosaic
CONSULTING

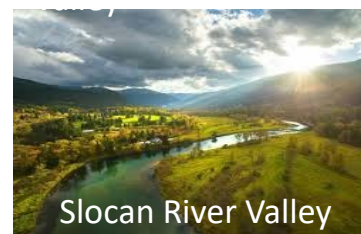
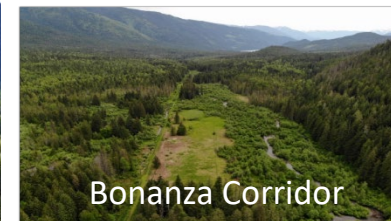
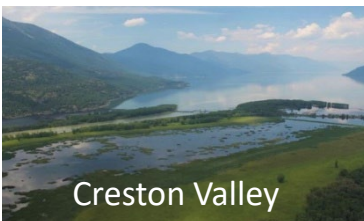
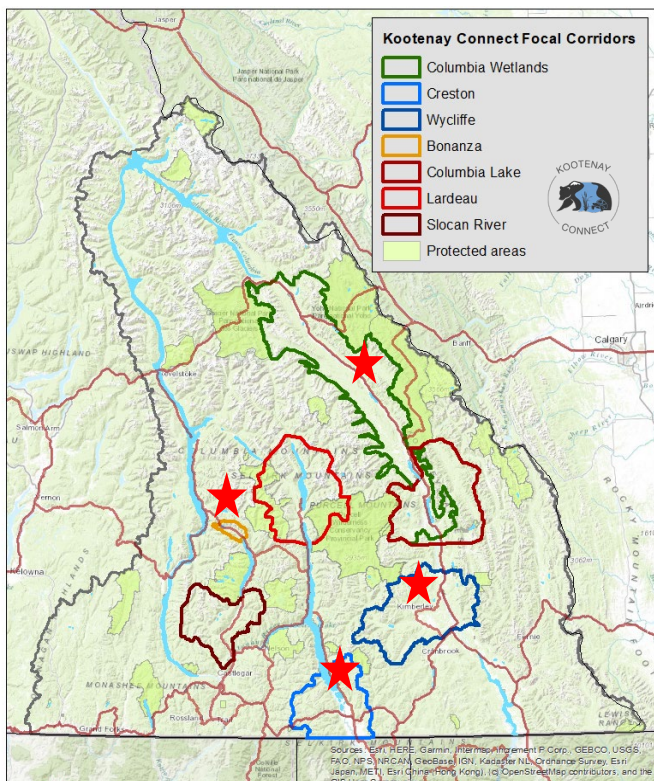
Michael Proctor, PhD and Marcy Mahr, MSc
Prepared for Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
4/30/2020

Contacts:
mproctor@netidea.com
marcy@netidea.com



4 Focal Areas = 10,000 sq km ... or 1 million hectares
 \$2 million grant over 4 years with 1:1 match

(Clockwise) Photos courtesy of Rachel Darvill, Richard Klafki, Ryan Durand, Marc-Andre Beaucher.



7 Focal Areas = 16,600 sq km (1.66 million hectares)
 Additional \$1.95 million over next 3 years

(Clockwise) Photos courtesy of Rachel Darvill, David Quinn, Marc-Andre Beaucher, Brenda Herbison, Ryan Durand

★ Core team of 12 partners leading projects

- BC Provincial Government
- Calgary Zoo
- Cirque Environmental
- ★ Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area
- ★ Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
- Ducks Unlimited Canada
- EcoLogic Environmental Consulting
- East Kootenay Invasive Species Council
- Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program
- Goldeneye Ecological Services
- Integrated Ecological Research
- Keefer Ecological Consulting
- ★ Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives
- ★ Kootenay Conservation Program
- ★ Kutenai Nature Investigations
- Living Lakes Canada
- MacDonald Hydrology Consultants Ltd
- Momentum Mountain Solutions, Ltd.
- Mountain Station Consultants
- ★ NK Consulting
- ★ Nature Conservancy of Canada
- ★ Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Pandion Ecological Research Inc.
- ★ Slocan Lake Stewardship Society
- Slocan River Streamkeepers Society
- ★ The Nature Trust of BC
- ★ Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project
- University of Lethbridge
- University of Waterloo
- Upstream Ecological Consulting
- Vivid Consulting
- Wetland Restoration & Training LLC
- ★ Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Kootenay Connect: Accomplishments

Accumulated more than 46 geospatial layers of ecological, biological, species at risk, ecosystem, and human influence characteristics

5.7 km of wildlife friendly fencing installed, maintained, replaced or removed to exclude cattle and motorized vehicles from important wildlife habitat in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor

Invasive plant inventory across 540 ha of the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor and subsequent treatment of 35 ha of invasive plants such as yellow hawkweed, sulphur cinquefoil, common burdock, Canada thistle, common tansy, and spotted knapweed



Great blue heron breeding site surveys in the four Kootenay Connect focal areas confirmed 7 breeding sites with 161 occupied nests

15 structures installed (7 of artificial Branden Bark, and 8 of a natural bark design) to mimic artificial old growth and increase roosting opportunities for bats and potentially improve 75,000 ha of bat habitat

58 ha of habitat improved by tree thinning and creation of coarse woody debris piles in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor



45 cottonwood trees caged to prevent beaver damage in the Columbia Wetlands

Comprehensive field inventories led to recording 1,425 species in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor, including over 50 species at risk and 20 first recorded occurrences



Bonanza Conservation Values Assessment identified and mapped high priority areas for conservation

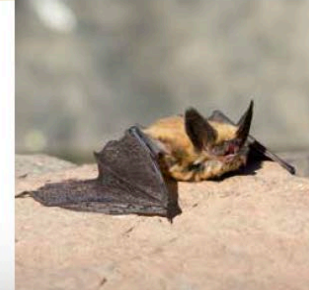
17 ha of wetlands restored at three sites in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor

85 beavers inhabiting 17 distinct colonies identified in the Columbia Wetlands, with 2 artificial dams installed improving 54 ha of habitat

Over 13 ha of shallow open water enhanced for northern leopard frog breeding habitat in the Creston Wetlands, including 1,643 m of channel cleared of native and non-native vegetation. Mapping of 14,444 ha of wetlands in the Columbia Wetlands, with 10 multi-species wetland-upland corridors identified, and 131 properties considered 'biodiversity conservation opportunities' on public and private land



6 North American Bat Monitoring cells established in the four focal areas, identifying 12 species of bats including SARA-listed little brown bat and species of concern including Townsend's big-eared bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, eastern red bat, and fringed myotis





[Bonanza Corridor](#)



[Columbia Wetlands](#)



[Species at Risk](#)



[Creston Valley](#)



[Wycliffe Corridor](#)



[Corridor Science](#)

Securement for Conservation



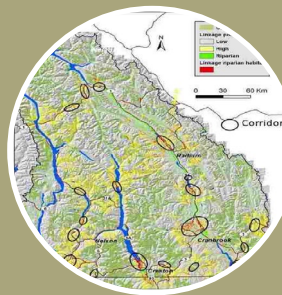
Support conservation:
Local Conservation Funds



Promote stewardship:
Stewardship Solutions Toolkit



Develop collaborative priorities:
Conservation Action Forums

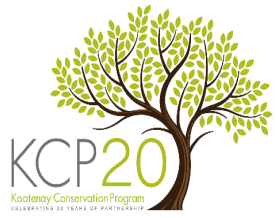


Connect landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure ecologically significant properties:
Land Securement





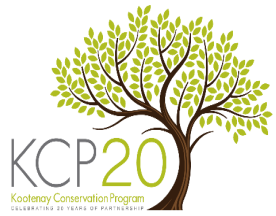
Land Securement



Richard Klafki Photo



Carol Latter Photo



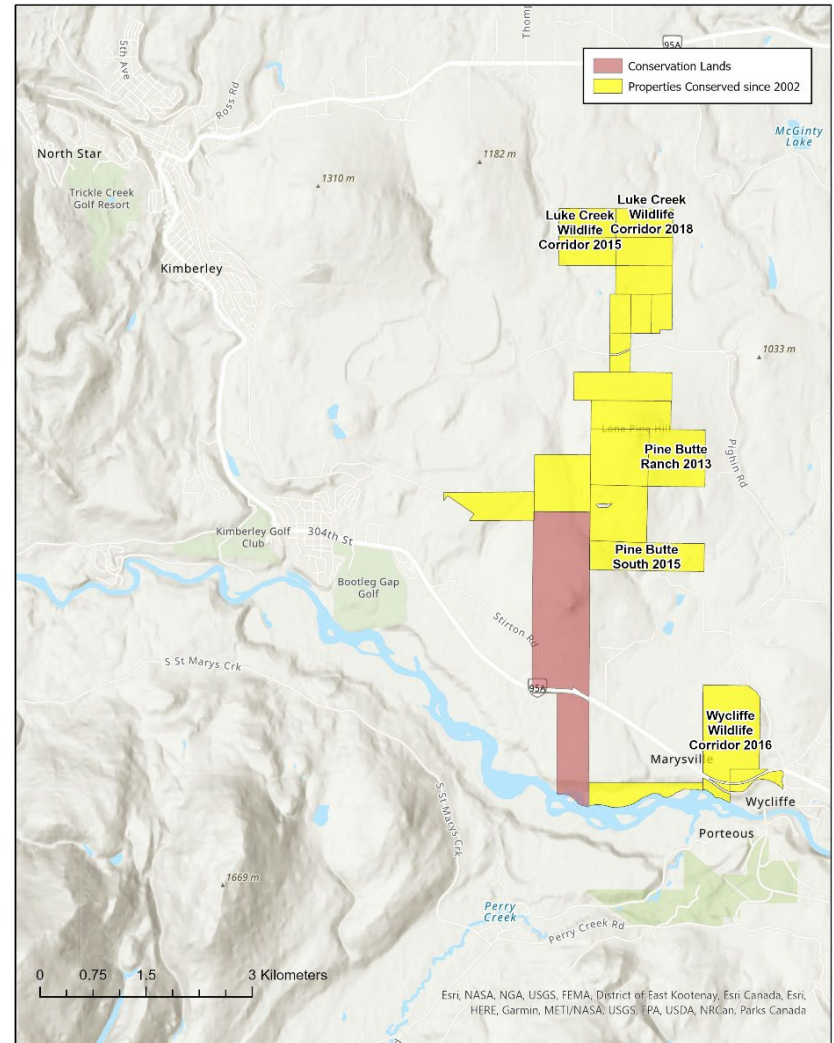
Land Securement



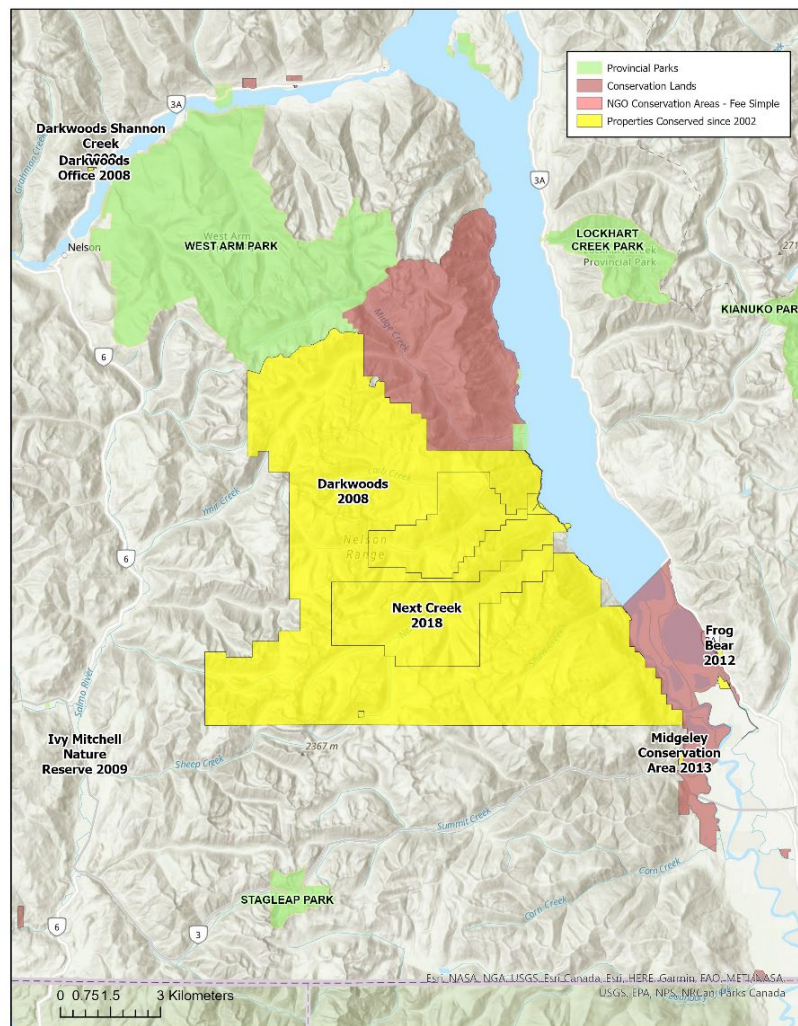
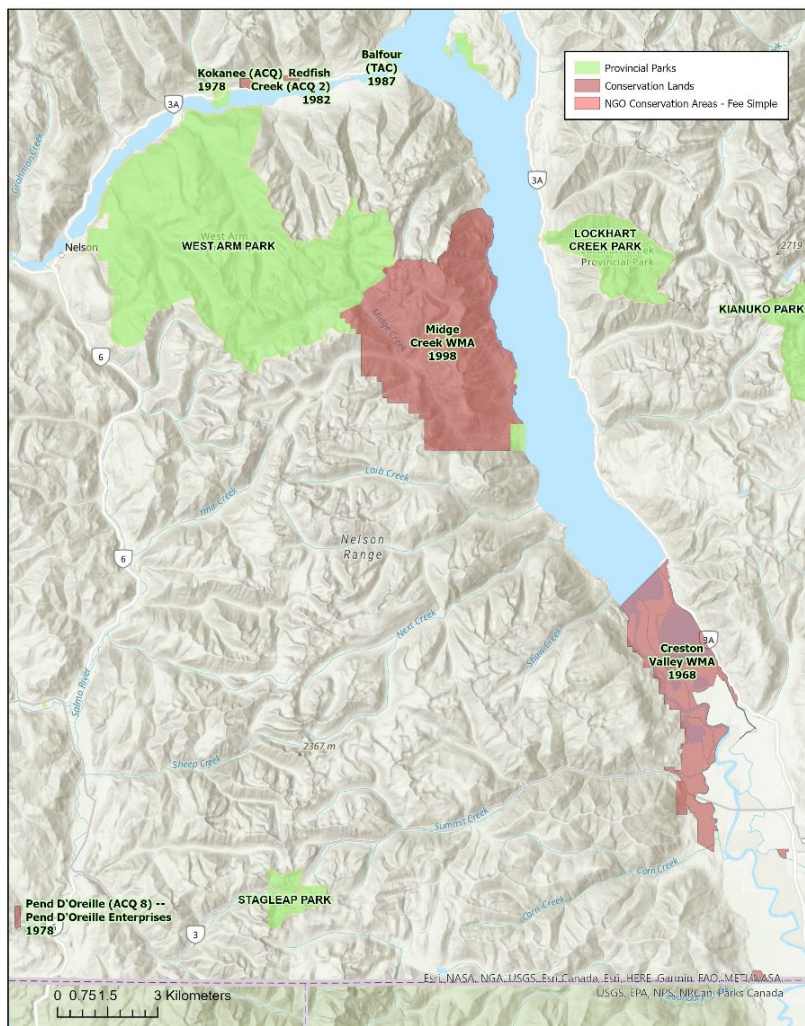
Chris Bosman Photo

Over 83,000 hectares conserved and 58 properties acquired

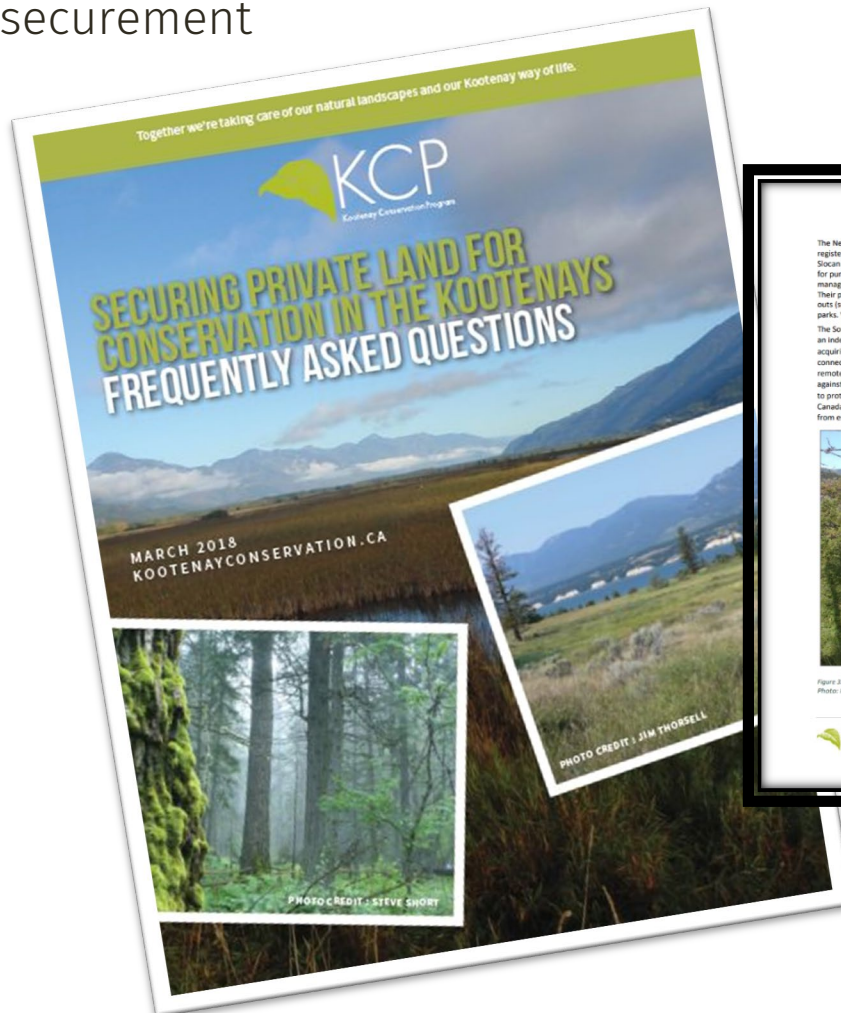
Land Securement – Wycliffe



Land Securement - Creston



Supporting a collaborative approach to land securement



The New-Denver-based Vihalla Foundation (VF) for Ecology is a small conservation organization with registered charity status. They hold a small number of conservation properties and covenants in the Slocan Valley and elsewhere in the province. Because VF is a small organization with a limited capacity for purchasing conservation properties and the associated (and sometimes costly) stewardship management, VF very carefully considers a limited number of possible conservation properties annually. Their primary focus has been on private land purchases, conservation covenants and land tenure buy-outs (such as traildeeds) that enhance biodiversity and the wildlife values of land bordering provincial parks. VF respect local First Nations interests and seek their approval as appropriate.

The Southern Interior Land Trust (SILT), established in 1988, is a registered not-for-profit charity run by an independent volunteer board. SILT operates throughout the BC southern interior and focuses on acquiring those gems and jewels of fish and wildlife habitat that act as "stopping-stones" for ecosystem connectivity between larger conservation areas. These "islands" of habitat are generally too small or too remote to be of much interest to the larger land trusts and conservancies—but failing to secure them against loss is creating a dangerous gap in species conservation and ecosystem resilience. SILT's goal is to protect important habitats for all living things—including people. SILT is a qualified recipient under Canada's Ecological Gifts Program and issues tax receipts for donations of cash, property or bequests from estates.




Figure 3: Lower linkage property connects wetlands and grasslands, providing an important corridor for wildlife. Photo: Richard Kluge.

KCP

6 | Page

What is the Process of Securing Land?

The securement process used by KCP evaluation committee, NCC and TNBCC and other land trusts consists of four main steps: property identification, evaluation, securement and management/stewardship.



1. Property Identification

Properties are identified in a number of different ways. Landowners may approach a land trust if they would like to donate or sell their land or place a conservation covenant on their land title. Biologists or environmental organizations may identify properties that have unique ecological values and bring properties forward to a land trust or KCP for consideration. Land trusts, KCP and government agencies also independently identify properties that are conservation candidates.




Figure 4: Nature Conservancy of Canada's "Lot 4F". Photo courtesy of James Thornell.

KCP

7 | Page

KCP Conservation Approach



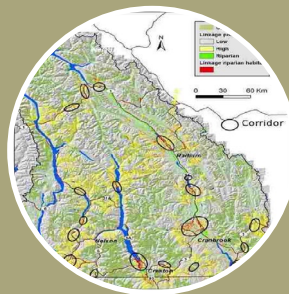
Support
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Solutions Toolkit**



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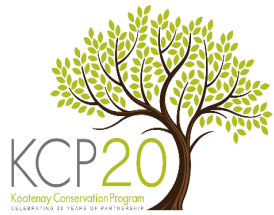


Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement





For more information:

TOGETHER WE'RE TAKING CARE OF OUR NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND OUR KOOTENAY WAY OF LIFE



Conservation in the Kootenays Monthly eNews

January 2023



Photo by Nicole Trigg

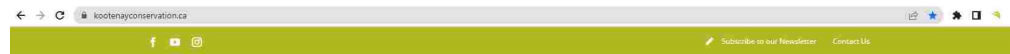
Happy New Year from the KCP Board and Team! We're excited for what 2023 will

Kootenay Connect expands!



What do grizzly bears, badgers, and western painted turtles have in common? They are three of the more than 30 at-risk species in the Kootenays that will continue

www.kootenayconservation.ca



Home Who We Are What We Do Local Conservation Funds News & Resources



The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a partnership of 80 organizations that work together to protect clean water,

Together we're taking care of our natural landscapes and our Kootenay way of life.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP 2002-2022

November 2022



ABOVE: 2017 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, CRANFORK
PAT MORROW PHOTO



ABOVE: 2009 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, ORRYSON VALLEY
GREG HETZIG PHOTO



2016 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, NELSON
NICOLE EWGG PHOTO



BELOW: 2019 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, INVERMERE
PAT MORROW PHOTO



BELOW: 2020 KCP FALL GATHERING REGIONAL MINI FIELD TOUR, KOOTENAY LAKE
AMELY MAHREZ PHOTO



Conservation Looking Forward

Agriculture



Resource use



Natural system modifications



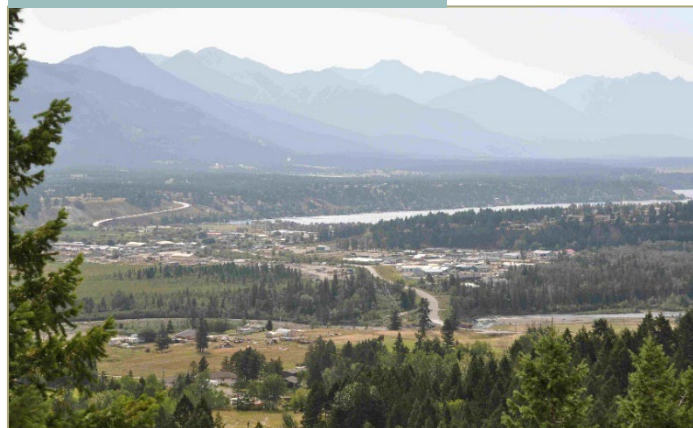
Climate Change & severe weather



Transportation corridors

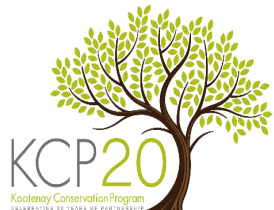


Human intrusions & disturbance



Invasive species



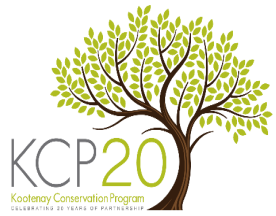


Opportunities for Local Government

- 1) Explore and promote **local conservation fund** service
- 2) Advertise and promote **stewardship solutions toolkit**
- 3) Integrate Kootenay Connect **ecosystem corridor** information into land use planning



What could this partnership do to support local governments to integrate conservation principles?



Thank You, Discussion, Questions



Pat Morrow Photo