



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



Juliet Craig, Kootenay Conservation Program

Pat Morrow Photo



Program Sponsors



Parks
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Environment and
Climate Change Canada
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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.

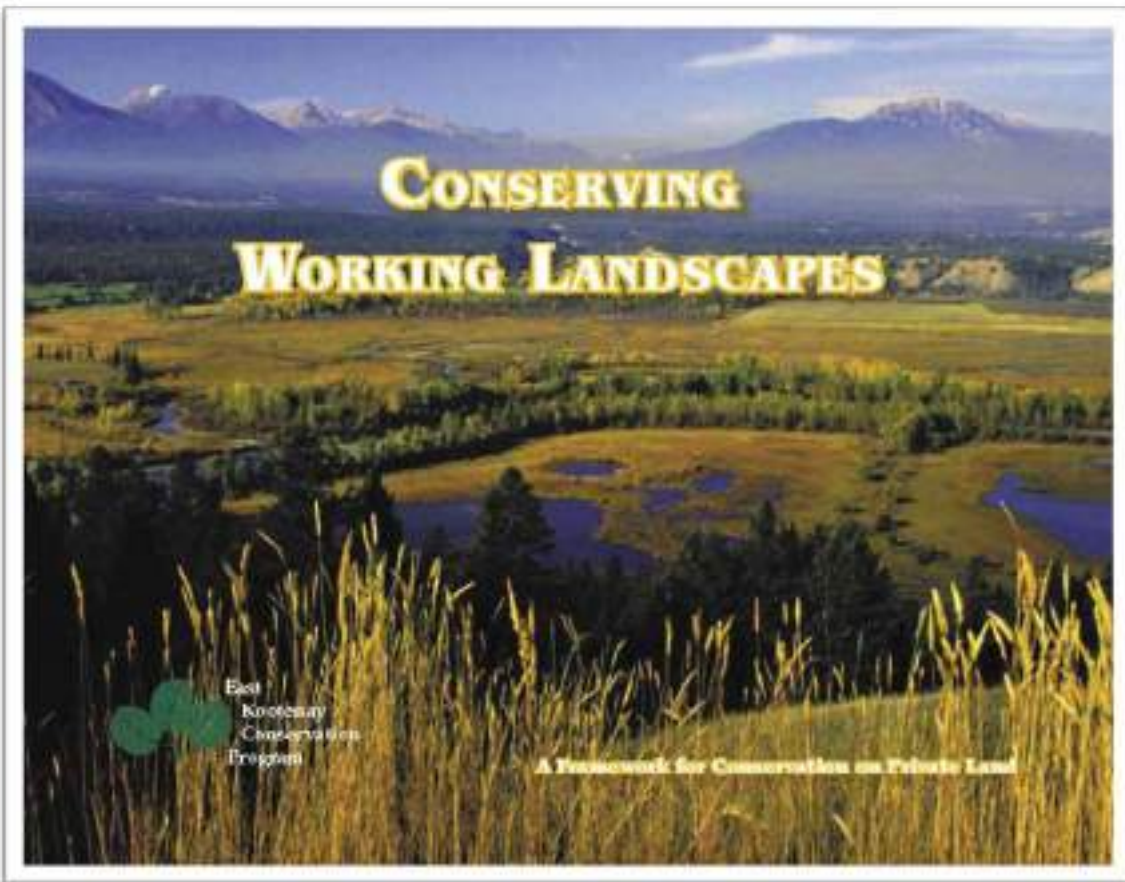
Marc-Andre Beaucher
Photo

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





About Kootenay Conservation Program



“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



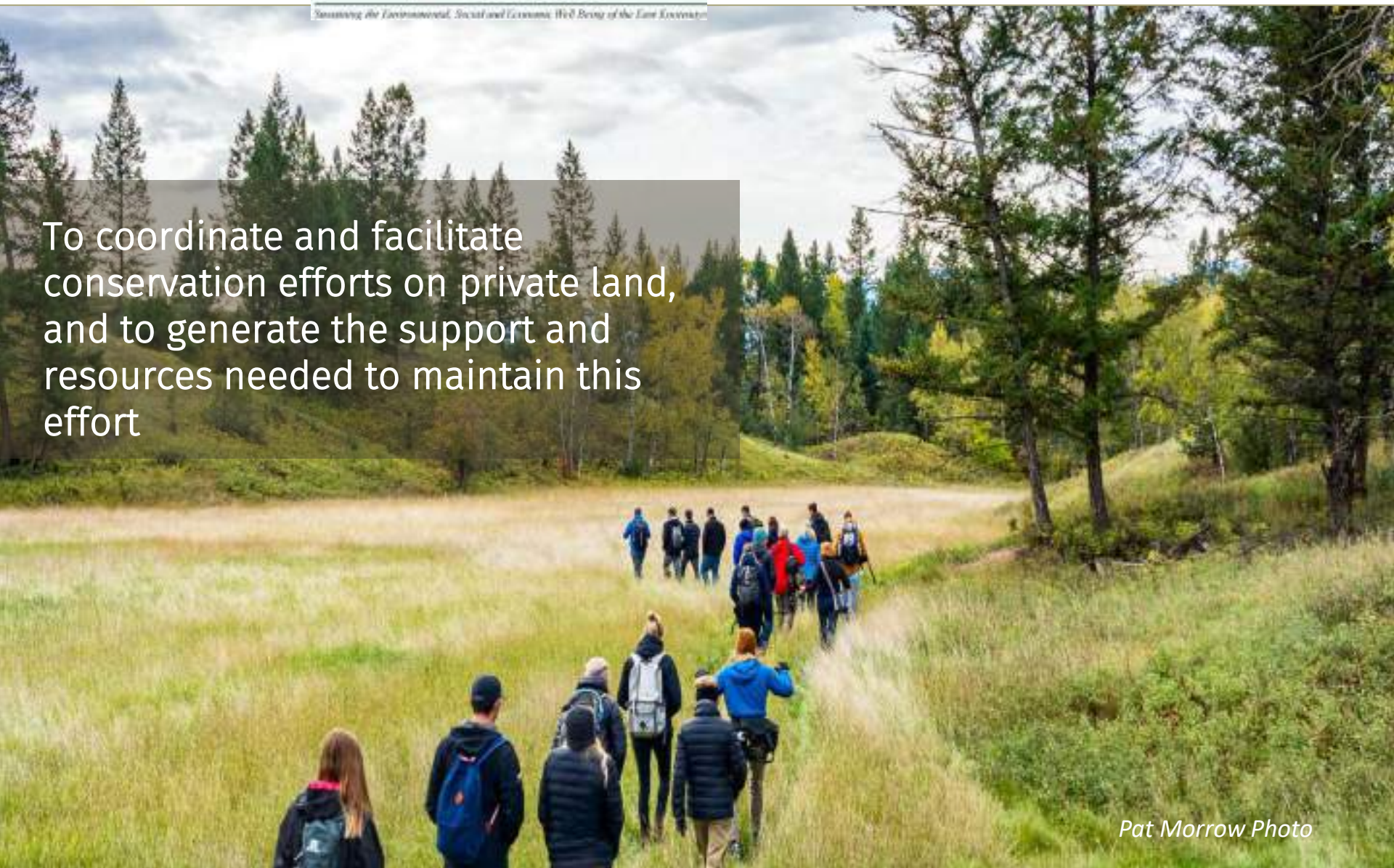
- Sustainability
- Clean water
- Climate mitigation
- Climate change adaptation



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

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

Landscape Connectivity



Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors

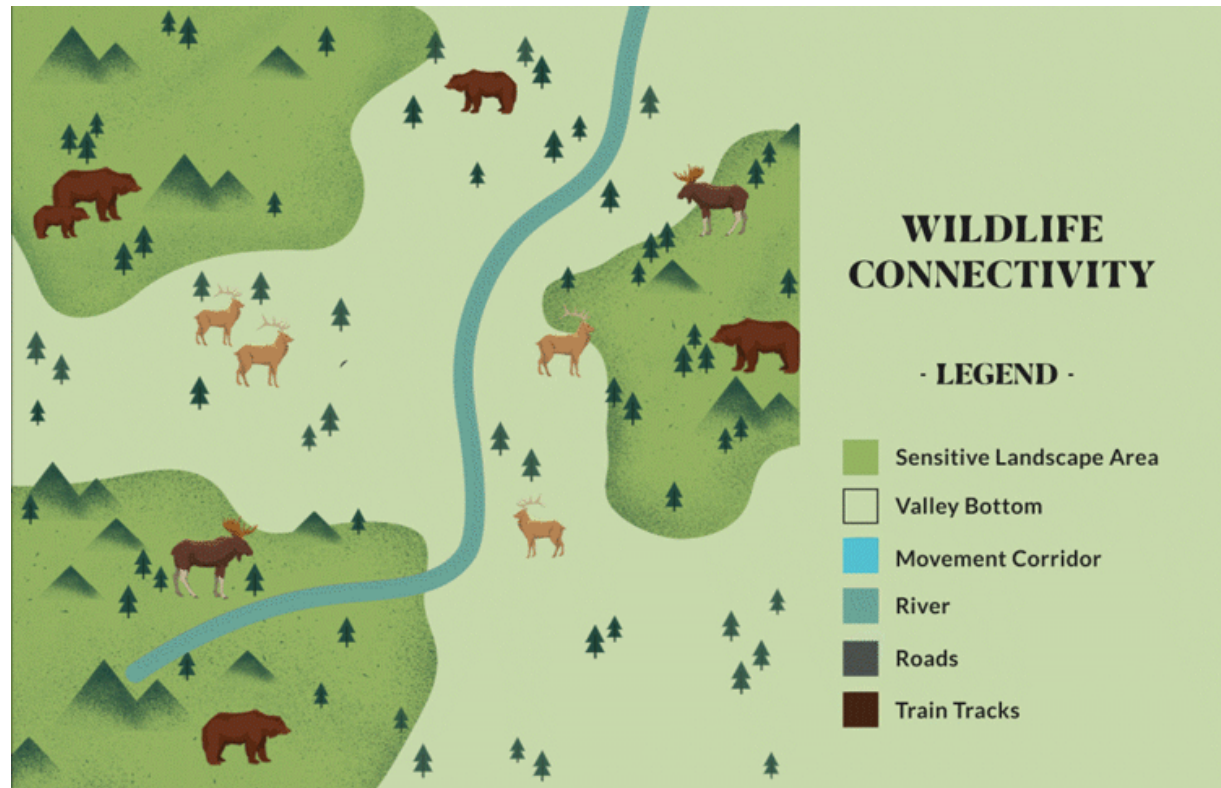
João Paulo Gama L., Wolfgang Arnold, Hanneli Bortolotto, Barbara Lazzarin, Hanneli Bortolotto, Maria Carolina Ribeiro, Carlos Ribeiro, Carlos M. Trindade, Joana Lemos, Mely Garcia, James K. Brown, Rob Amey and Gary M. Tabor

© 2010 IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

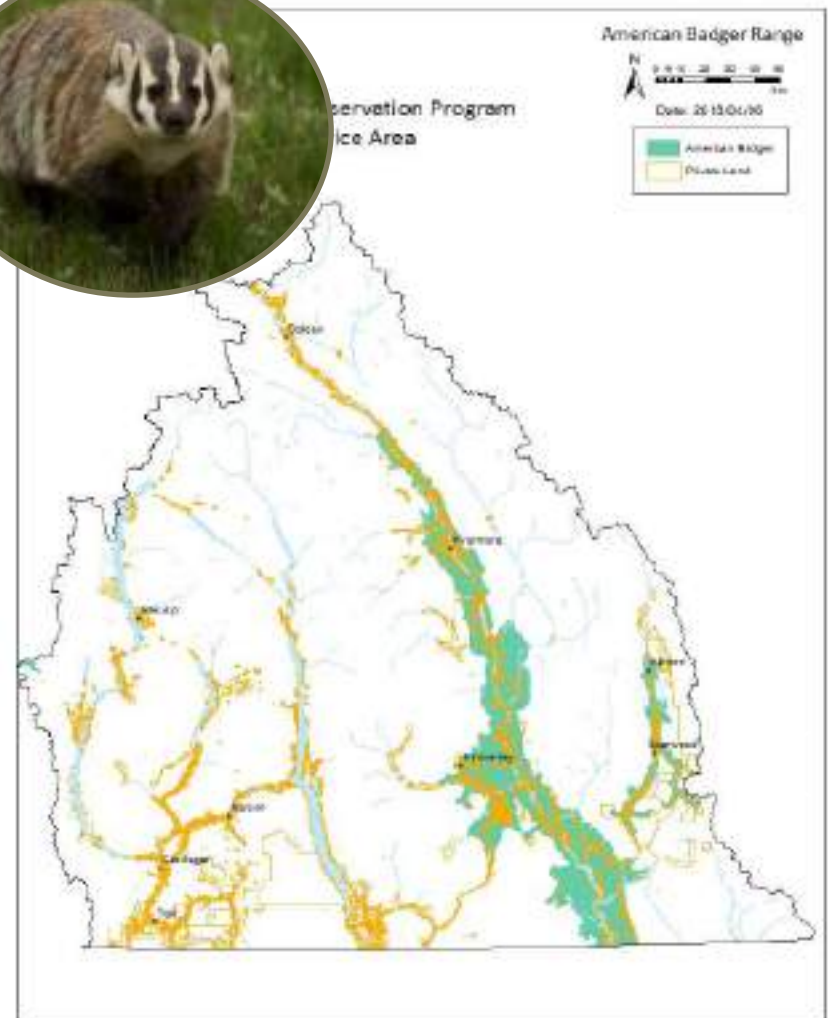
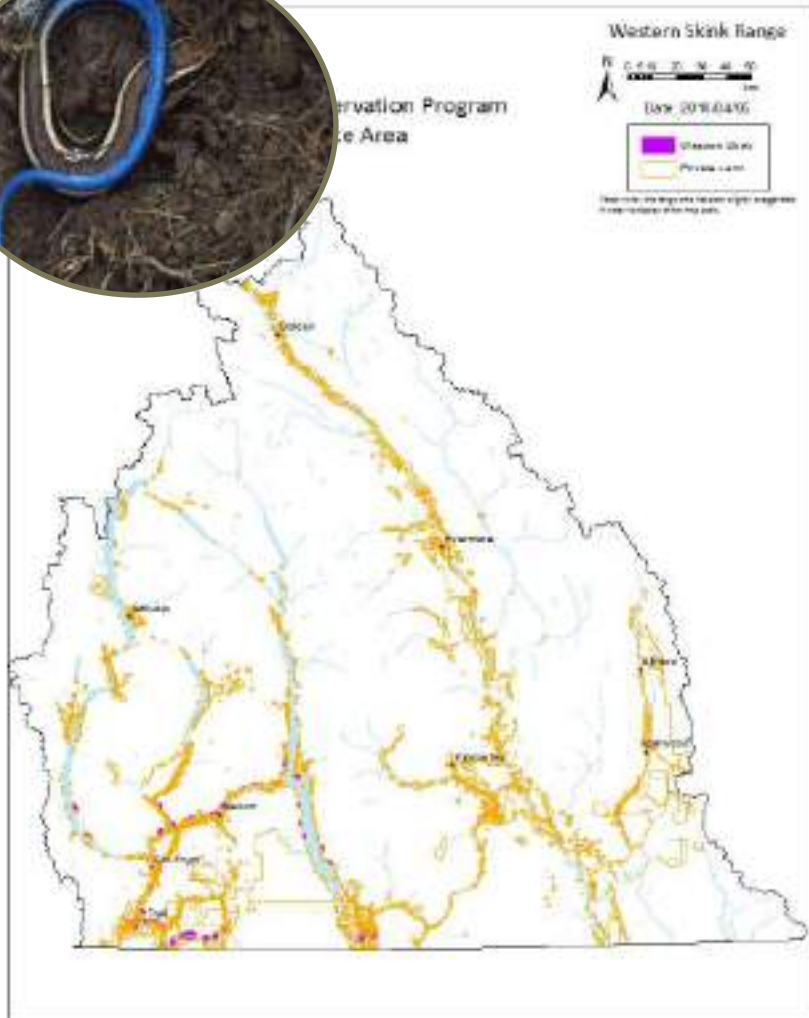


Developing capacity for a protected planet

Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 30



Low Elevation Spaces





Low Elevation Habitats



Marc-Andre Beacuher Photo

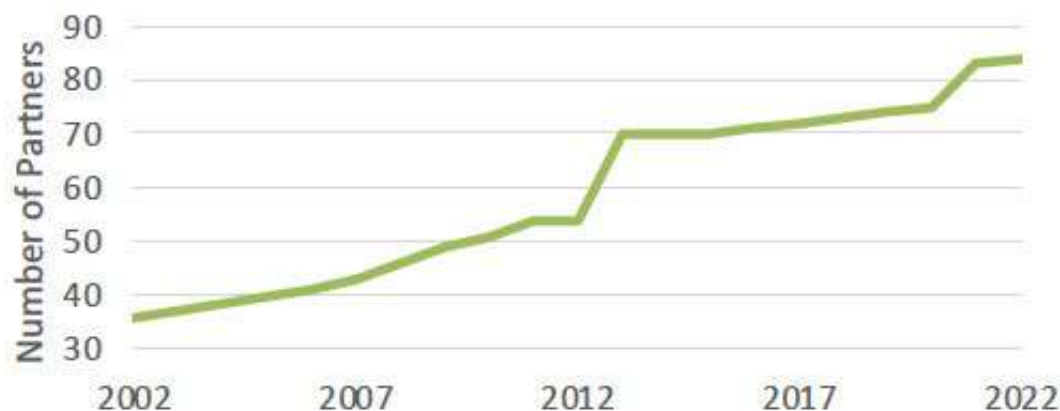
Conserving Private Land in the Kootenays



- 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

KCP

Local Government Forum

MAR 2019

**TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION
IN THE KOOTENAYS**

How to Use the Conservation Forum

People across the Kootenays are working together to protect and restore wildlife, fish, and habitat. This forum is a chance for you to learn more about the work we are doing and to share your ideas and experiences. The forum will be held on March 20th and 21st, 2019, at the Kootenai County Convention Center in Pocatello, Idaho. The forum will be held in two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning session will focus on wildlife and fish, and the afternoon session will focus on habitat and wetlands. The forum will include presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities. We encourage you to bring a representative from your organization to the forum. We will provide lunch and refreshments for all attendees. We will also provide a list of speakers and topics for the forum. We will also provide a list of speakers and topics for the forum. We will also provide a list of speakers and topics for the forum.

Featuring...

Presentations by local government officials, conservation organizations, and experts in the field. Workshops on wildlife, fish, and habitat conservation. Networking opportunities with other conservation professionals.

REGISTER ONLINE AT

MORE INFORMATION

We are grateful to our sponsors for this event.

Columbia River Trust

Kootenai County Association of Governments

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



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Local Conservation Funds



Local Conservation Funds in British Columbia

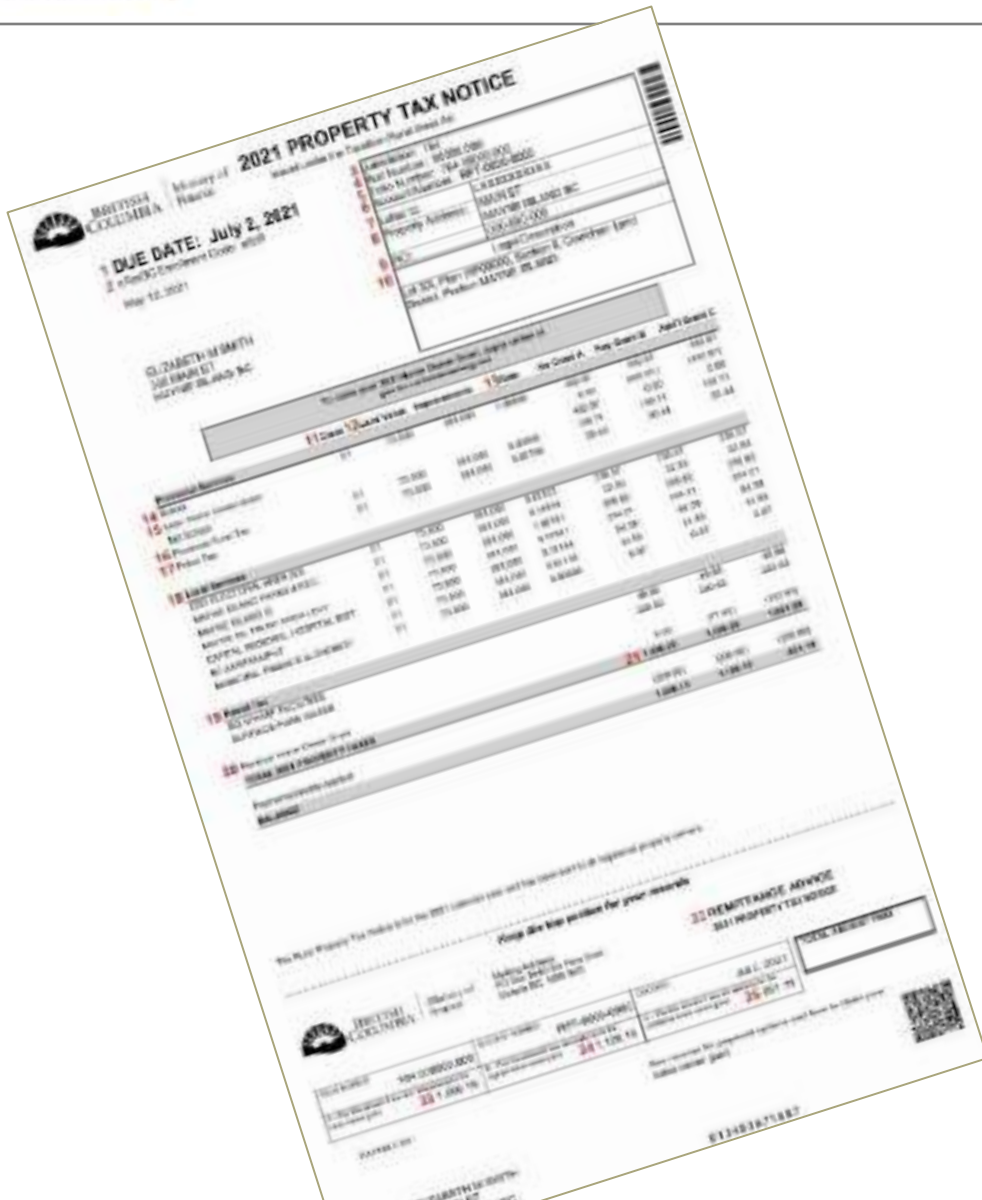
A Guide for Local Governments and Community Organizations

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





How Local Conservation Funds Work





How Local Conservation Funds Work



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

Project Proposals

KLLCF funding is available for conservation projects that result in the reduction or elimination of threats to biodiversity. Projects that are technically sound and effective, and provide value for money through partnerships with other funders will have priority. Proposals must be a registered not-for-profit organization, First Nations band, or local government. Unqualified groups or organizations may partner with a qualified organization. Only your 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 Directors Final Approval
- **March** – Applicants Notified
- **April** – Funding Agreement Documents Finalized

Note: Land acquisition or easement 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 below they will be considered. These are:

1. Projects must be directed in the **Fund Service Area** where the Local Conservation Fund 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 KLCN 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](#)) as outlined in the [KLLCF Guidance Document](#). The Executive Summary of the guidance document can be found [here](#).
4. Proposals must be run profit, have registered society status or partner with an organization that has registered society status.
5. Proposals 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 2021 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 App](#)

Securement Application forms can be found [here](#).

Form Help

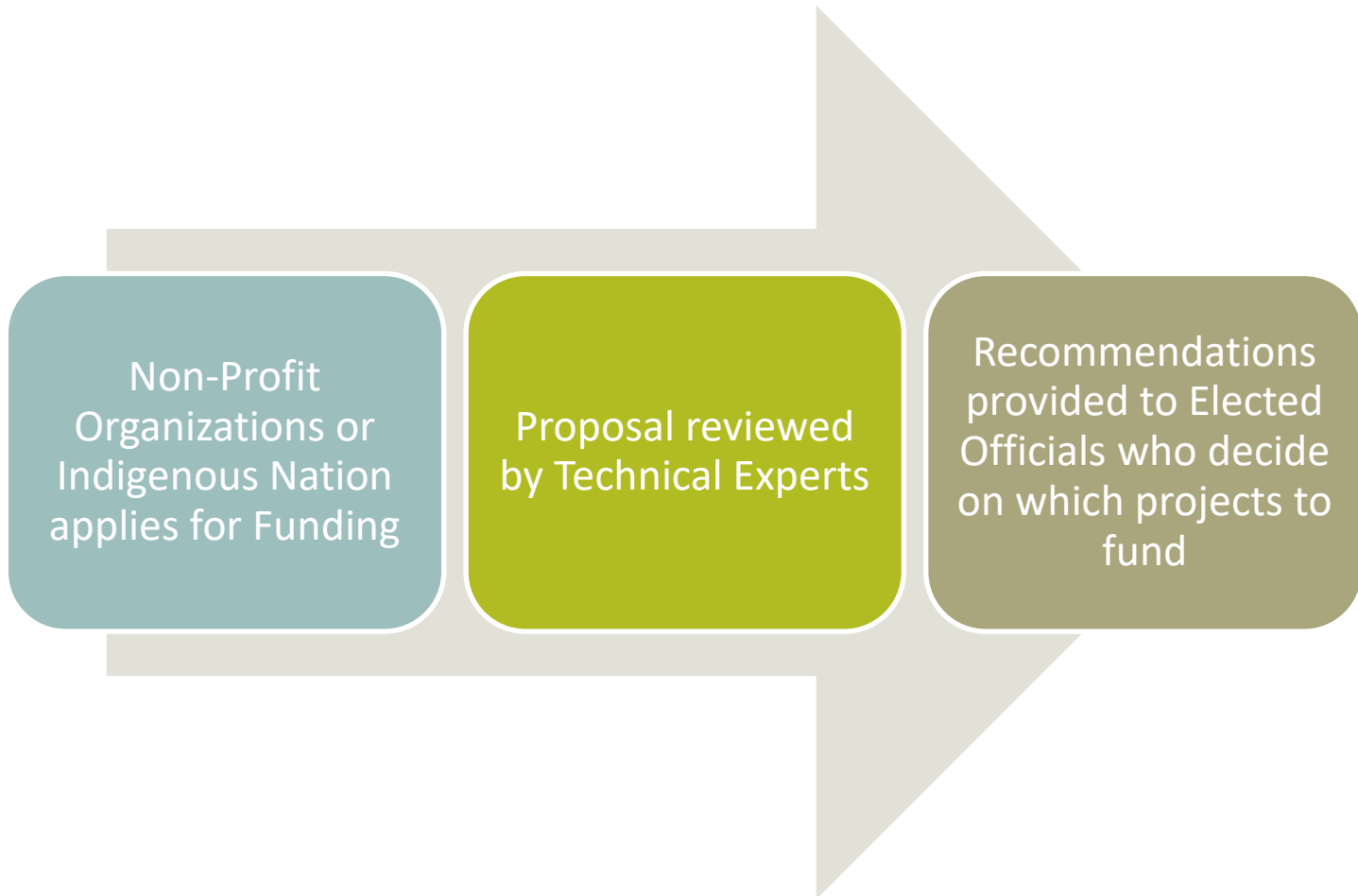
Please follow these instructions:

1. Install the most recent version.
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





How Local Conservation Funds Work





Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

CLEAN WATER
WILDLIFE
OPEN SPACE

©2004 NIGEL 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

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



Local Conservation Fund Projects



Abel Creek Culvert Rehabilitation Project



Hot Spots Habitat Enhancement in the Columbia Valley



Boulder Creek Ephemeral Project



Climate and Water Conservation Action Initiatives



Conservation of Woodruey in the Columbia Wetlands



Dutch Flaming Woodpecker Restoration



Hooden Conservation Property Management Project



Shoreline Beach Shoreline Restoration Project



Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Situation



Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship



Columbia Wetlands Ephemeral Purchase



Columbia Wetlands Wetland Survey



Recovery Community Det Project



Recovery River Bank Land Stewardship Activities



Lake Shad Restoration and Conservation Project



Lake Windermere River Monitoring & Education



Community Monitoring and Removal of Aquatic Invasive Species



Darkwood Ecosystem Restoration at Ty



Swimming Hot Spots as a Mitigation for White-Rose Syndrome



Fish/Bird Lake Western Toad Mortality Mitigation Implementation Along Highway 31A



Kootenay Lake Osprey Nest Monitoring



Kootenay Lake Shoreline Guideline Development Outreach



Kootenay Watershed Science



Local Recruitment for Conservation Purposes at Coquihale Lake



Grizzly Bear Goodness Selection



Habitat Restoration for Beavers along the Duncan Garden River Floodplain



Hatrop Wetland Enhancement Project



Kootenai Forest on Private Lands



Kootenai Property Acquisition



Western Painted Turtle Conservation



Wildflowers for Wildlife



Supporting Farm Stewardship



Pat Morrow Photo

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

Water Monitoring



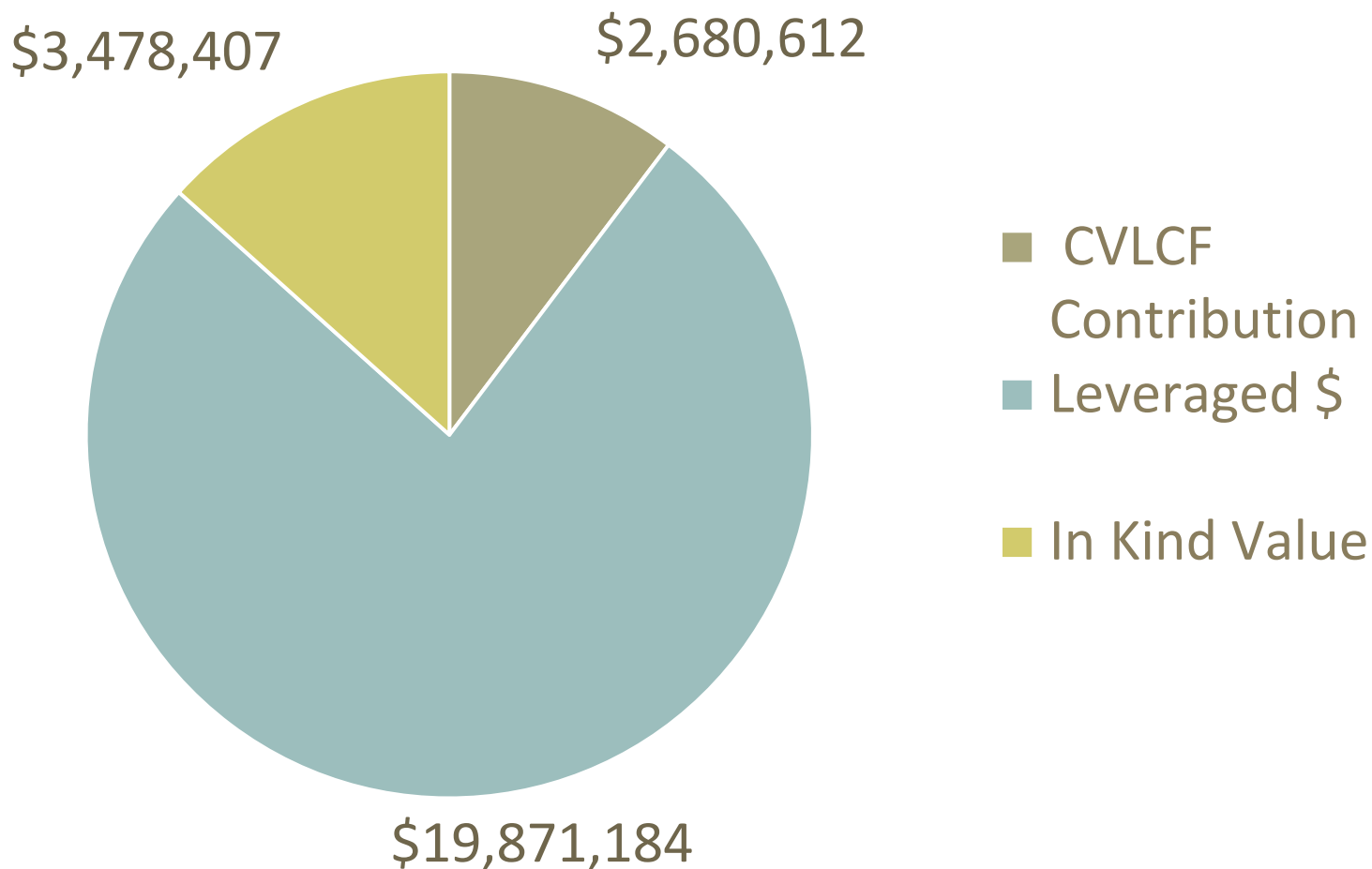
Improving Sensitive Areas







Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund





Kootenay Region Research Study

Prepared for Kootenay Conservation Program

www.kootenayconservation.ca

March 1, 2019

Prepared by:

NRG Research Group

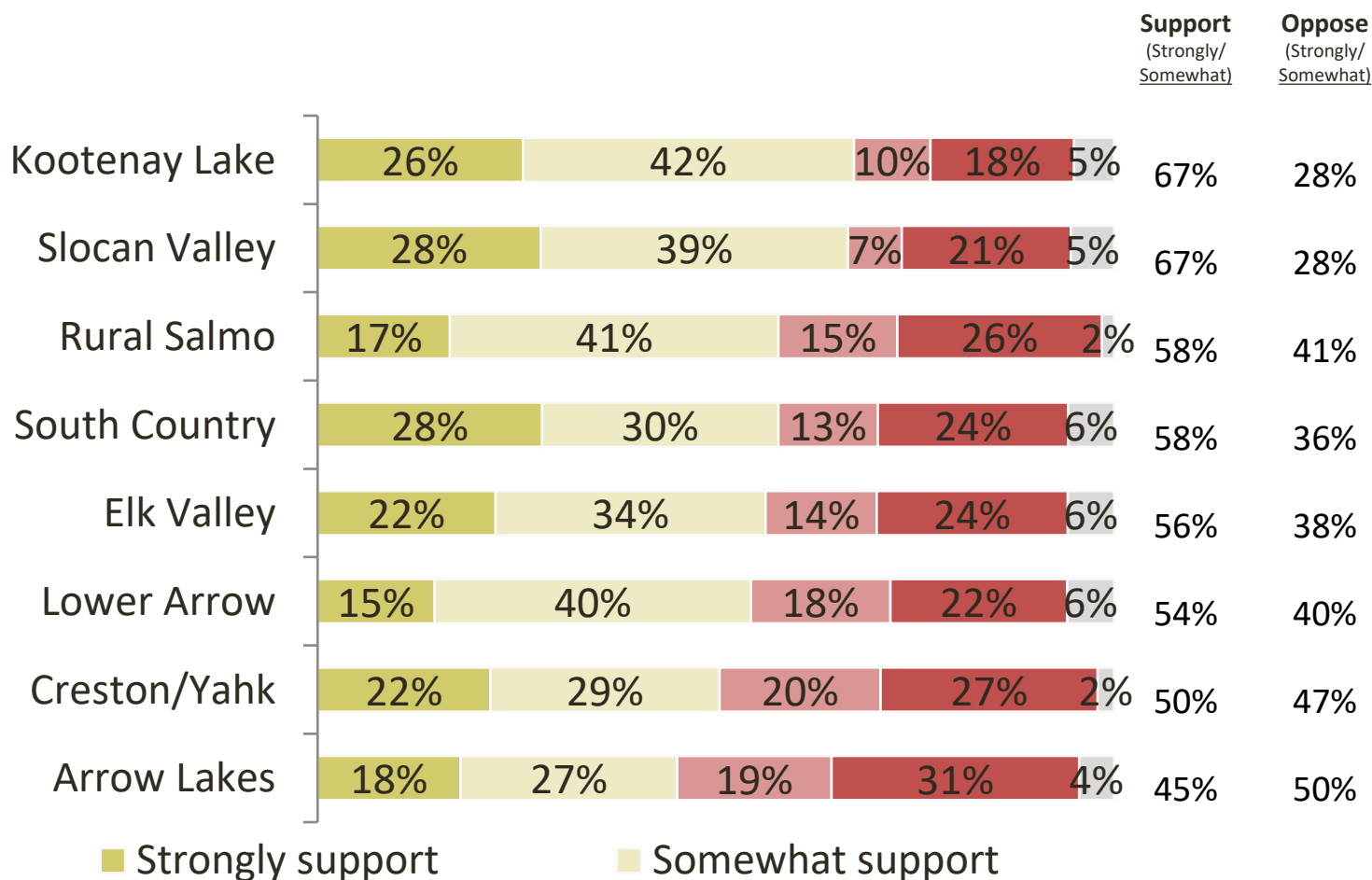
Kim Scott, Vice President
604.676.5641

Cam Mathewson, Senior Research
Consultant
604.676.3994



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

Market Research (2018)



Area H Referendum – October 15, 2022

LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND

WILDLIFE • HABITAT • WATER

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

 **PLEASE VOTE**

LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND
VOTE FOR CLEAN WATER • NO RESERVE • HABITAT





PASSED!

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Representing Diverse Communities in the Kootenays

HOME NEWS

ADMINISTRATION WKBR HOSPITAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT SERVICES HOW D

Home NEWS News Archives 2022 News Archive Referendum on Local Conservation Fund2 in Elec...

Browse Subtopics

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

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.

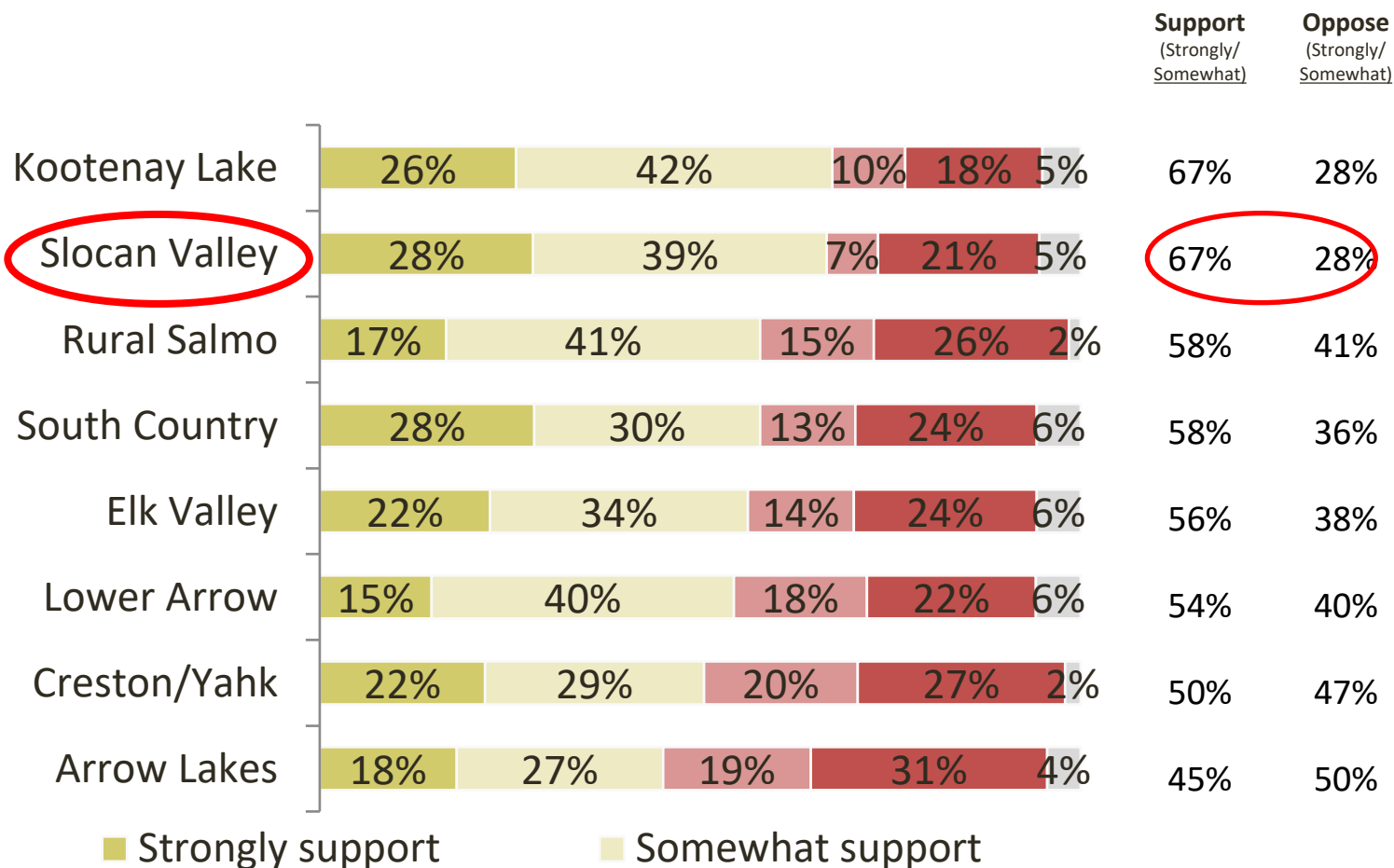
[Unofficial signed results \(PDF - 715 KB\)](#)

The unofficial results are as follows:





Market Research (2018)



Alternative Approval Process for Area F



Process for Municipalities

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

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



Stewardship Solutions



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.

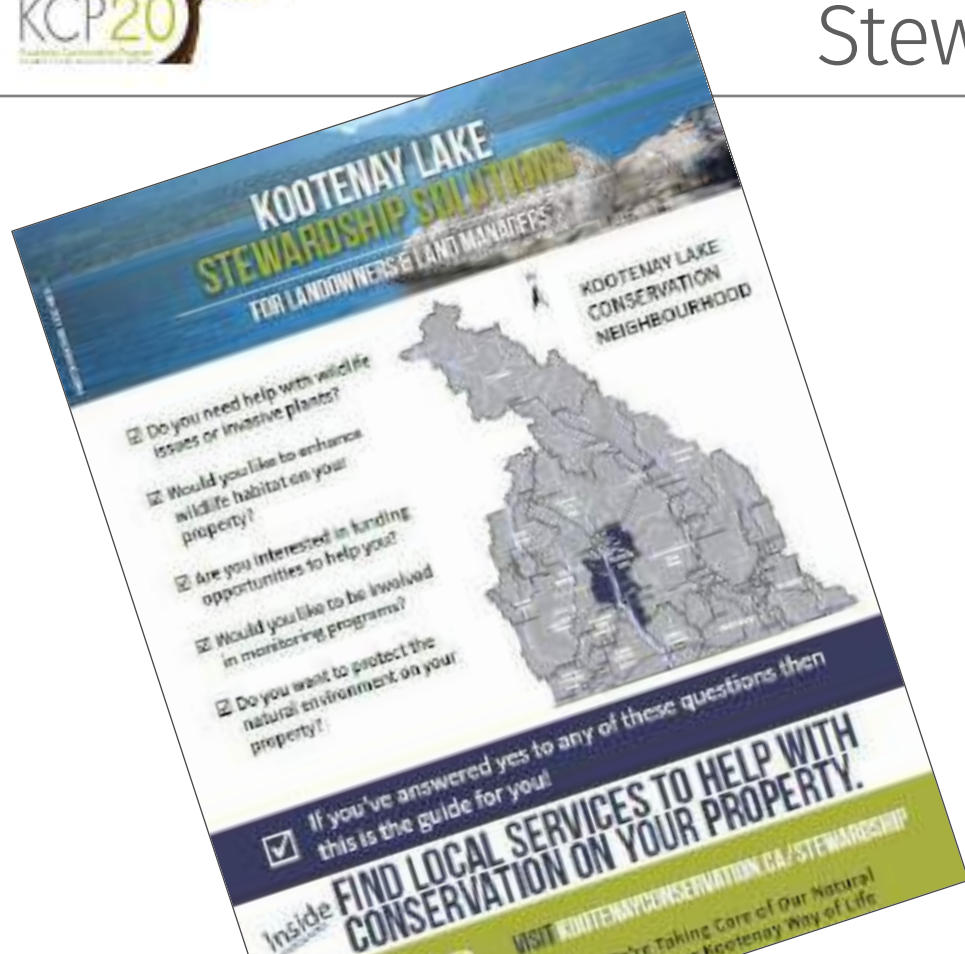
These local organizations may offer information, tools, incentives, services, learning opportunities, and/or funding for stewardship activities.

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
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**Local
Conservation
Funds**



Promote
stewardship:
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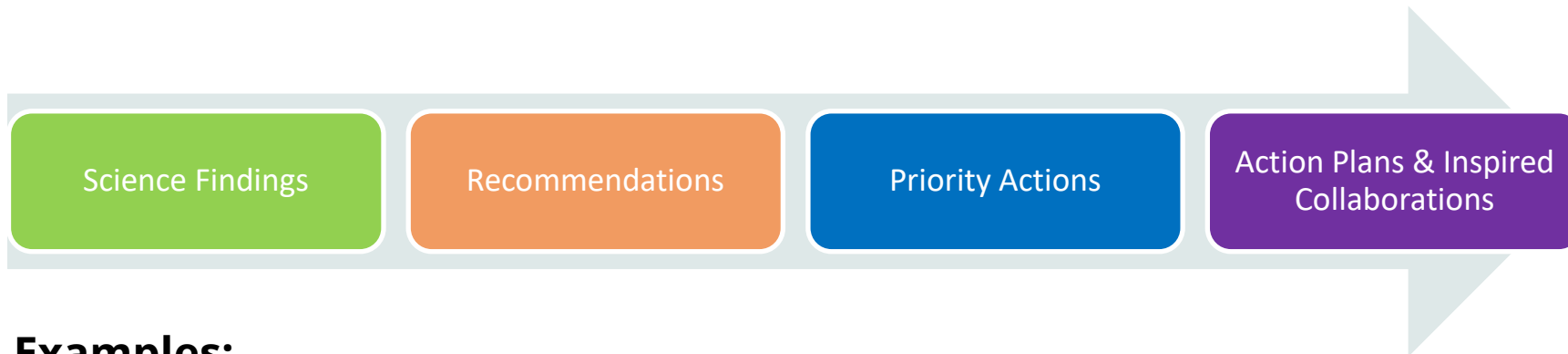
Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement







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





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Promote
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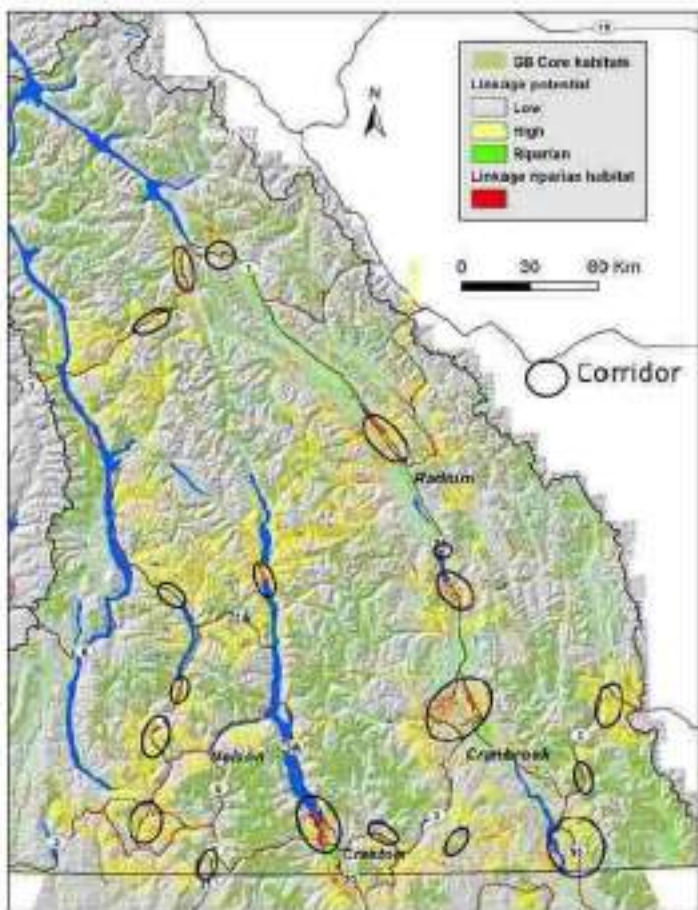


Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect

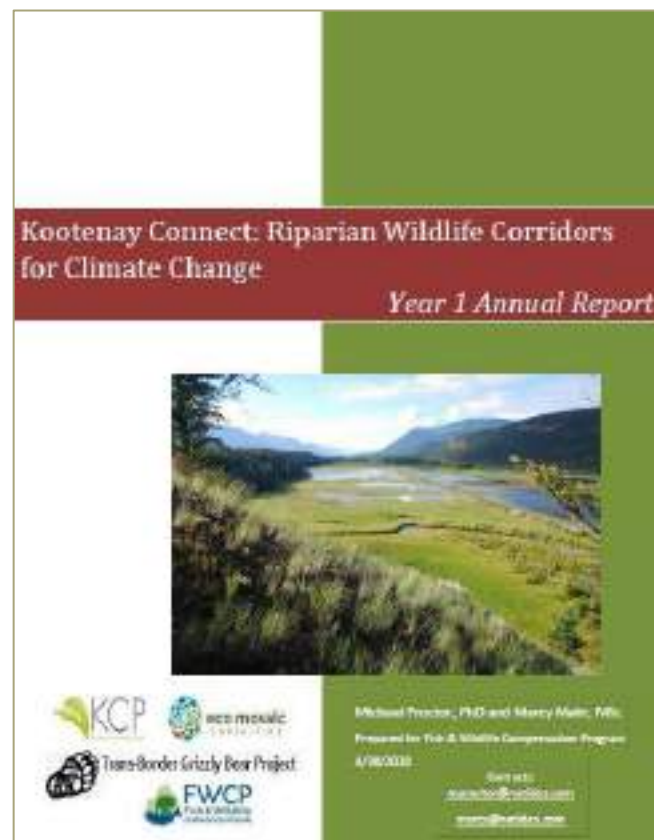


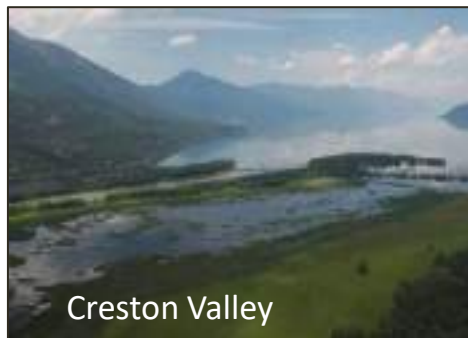
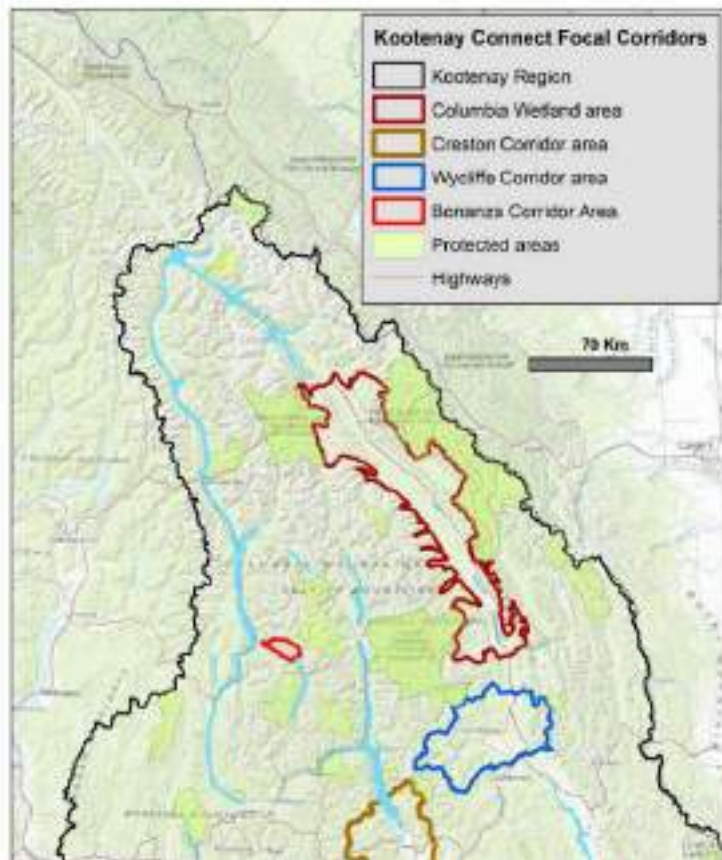
Secure
ecologically
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Land Securement





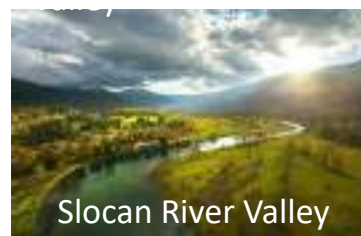
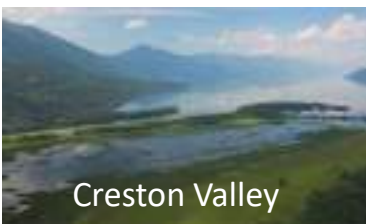
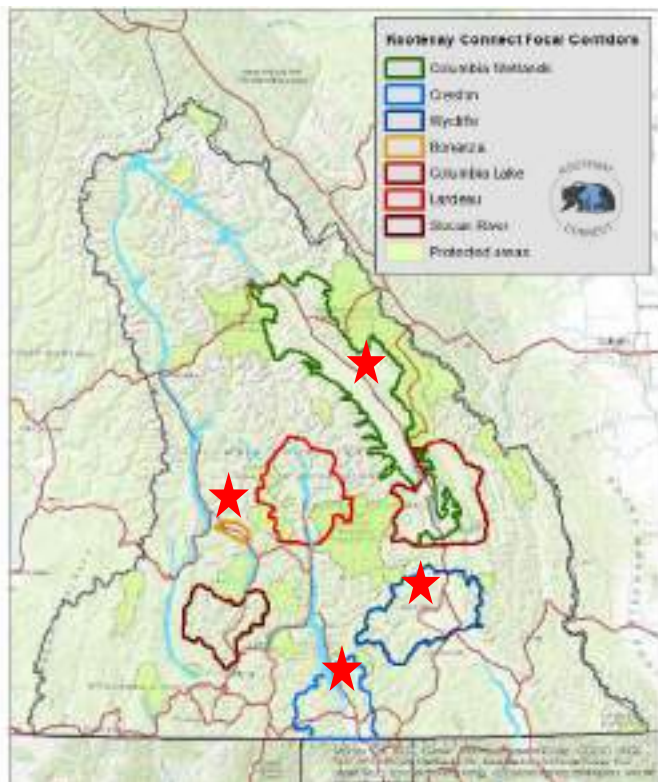
- Dr. Michael Proctor *Trans-Border Grizzly Project*
- Proctor and Mahr *Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change*





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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Provincial Government • Calgary Zoo • Cirque Environmental | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Ecological Research • Keefer Ecological Consulting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan Nation Alliance • Pandion Ecological Research Inc. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area ★ Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives ★ Kootenay Conservation Program ★ Kutenai Nature Investigations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Slokan Lake Stewardship Society • Slokan River Streamkeepers Society |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ducks Unlimited Canada • EcoLogic Environmental Consulting • East Kootenay Invasive Species Council • Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program • Goldeneye Ecological Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Lakes Canada • MacDonald Hydrology Consultants Ltd • Momentum Mountain Solutions, Ltd. • Mountain Station Consultants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ NK Consulting ★ Nature Conservancy of Canada ★ Northern Leopard Frog Recovery Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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 Brandon 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

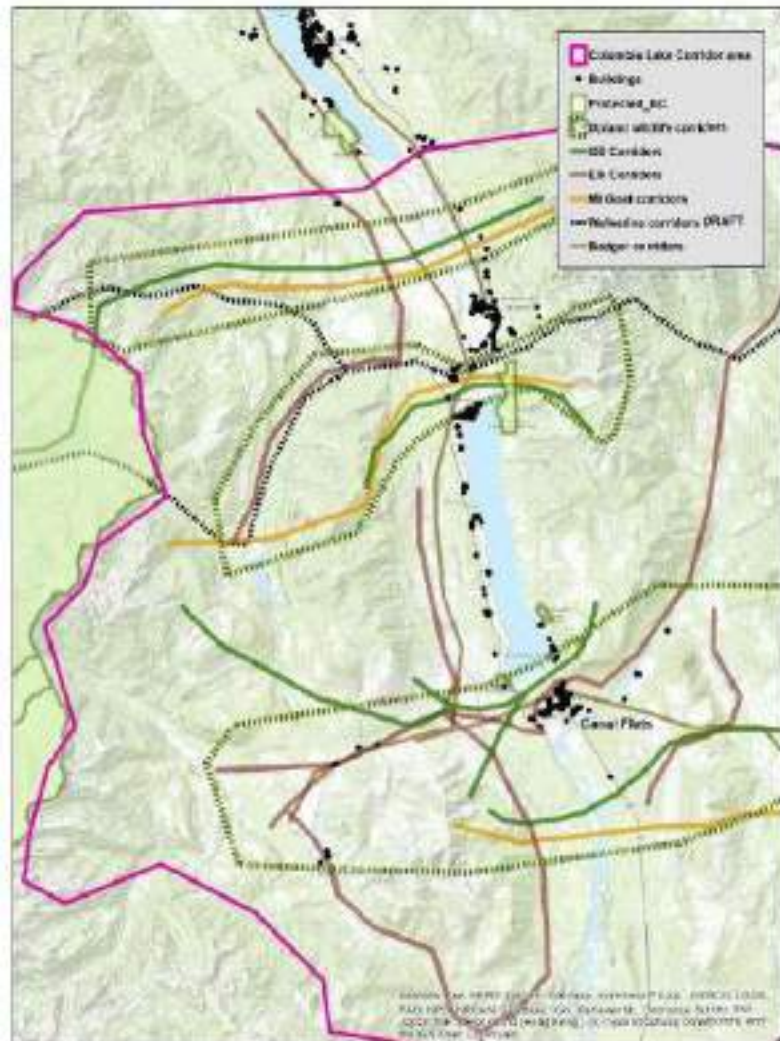
85 beavers inhabiting 17 distinct colonies identified in the Columbia Wetlands, with 2 artificial dams installed improving 34 ha of habitat

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 corridor identified, and 111 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





1. Considering the **entire landscape** including valley bottoms and uplands since all types of wildlife need to be able to move;
2. Focusing on **ecological connectivity** as key for ensuring the long-term ecosystem health that will lead to the maintenance or recovery of important species; and
3. Incorporating **climate change resilience** into our project designs by predicting potential “climate adaptation corridors and refugia” that will be important for species to adapt to a changing climate.



Bonanza Corridor



Columbia Wetlands



Species at Risk



Creston Valley



Wycliffe Corridor



Corridor Science

Securement for Conservation



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conservation:
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Conservation
Funds**



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Action Forums**



Connect
landscapes:
Kootenay Connect



Secure
ecologically
significant
properties:
Land Securement





Land Securement



Richard Klafki Photo



Carol Latter Photo



Land Securement

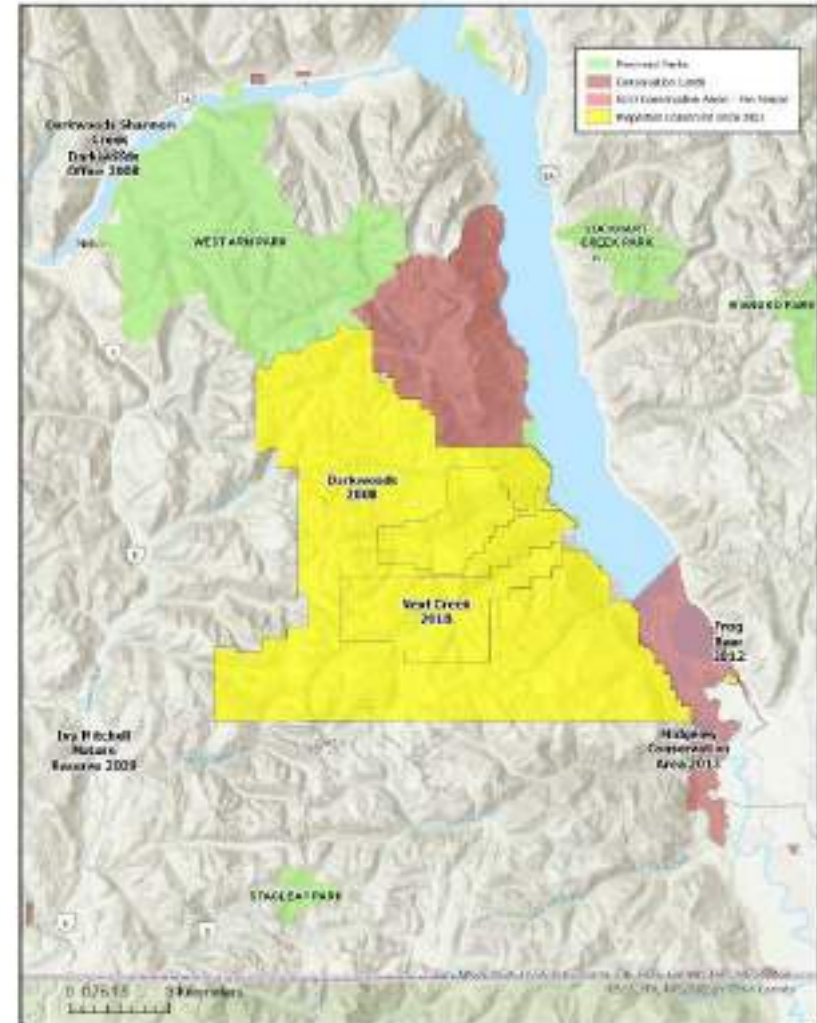
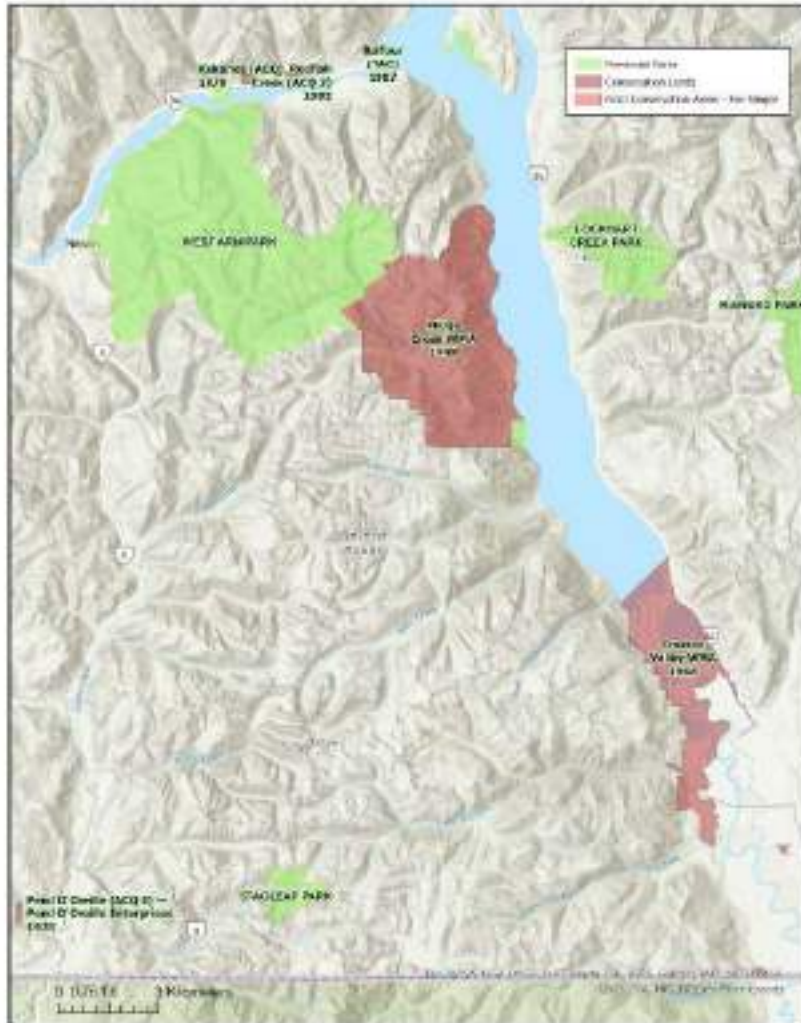


Chris Bosman Photo

Over 83,000 hectares conserved and 58 properties acquired



Land Securement - Creston



Supporting a collaborative approach to land securement



KCP Conservation Approach



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For more information:

www.kootenayconservation.ca

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



The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a partnership of 50 organizations that work together to protect clean water.



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



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP 2002-2022

November 2022



JANUARY 2019 KCP 200 BALL CATCHING WEST FORD, KANSAS
(PAT MORROW PHOTO)



APRIL 2019 KCP 200 BALL CATCHING FISH LAKE, KANSAS
(PAT MORROW PHOTO)



DECEMBER 2019 KCP 200 BALL CATCHING WEST FORD, KANSAS
(PAT MORROW PHOTO)

DECEMBER 2019 KCP 200 BALL CATCHING WEST FORD, KANSAS
(PAT MORROW PHOTO)



Conservation Looking Forward

Resource use



Natural system modifications



Climate Change & severe weather



Agriculture



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