

## BECAUSE, WE CAN

### CONSERVATION BEYOND CONVERSATION.

Conserving private land for perpetuity is possible, thanks to securement tools such as land acquisition and conservation covenants. To learn more about conserving private land in the Kootenay region, visit:

[KootenayConservation.ca/  
Securement-Coordination](http://KootenayConservation.ca/Securement-Coordination)

All landowners can contribute towards the region's ecological well-being. Land stewardship starts right out the front door, regardless of property size. For more information on what to do or how to do it, visit:

[KootenayConservation.ca/Toolkit](http://KootenayConservation.ca/Toolkit)

## BECAUSE, WE CARE

### VOTES ARE IN: NATURE FOR THE WIN.

Expansive wilderness, an abundance of rivers and lakes, rolling grasslands and snow-capped peaks: there's a sense of nature in the Kootenays, and it defines the people who call this place home. Nearly 95% of residents in the Columbia-Kootenay region think it's important to protect natural ecosystems in order to maintain quality of life. And 79% of people agree that conserving private lands is a good way to preserve wildlife habitat and the region's natural landscape. Good people, great places.



## KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) began in 2002 as the East Kootenay Conservation Program and expanded Kootenay-wide in 2012. Its mandate is to coordinate and facilitate conservation efforts on private land, and to generate the support and resources to support these initiatives.

Today the KCP is a broad partnership of over 80 organizations from across the East and West Kootenays, working together to conserve and enhance landscapes. KCP partners have conserved over 240,000 hectares of land and have invested \$150 million into conservation projects across the Kootenays. KCP has also worked with local governments in the Kootenays to implement a Local Conservation Fund that generates approximately \$300,000 per year for conservation. KCP is considered a model of success in collaboration and coordination, with long-lasting effective results.

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.

[info@KootenayConservation.ca](mailto:info@KootenayConservation.ca)

[KOOTENAYCONSERVATION.CA](http://KOOTENAYCONSERVATION.CA)

KCP RECOGNIZES THE SUPPORT OF OUR MAJOR FUNDERS

Columbia Basin **trust**



HABITAT  
CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDATION



NATURE TRUST  
BRITISH COLUMBIA



## A CASE FOR CONSERVATION

More than 30% of the province's species at risk call grasslands home.

8/10 residents in the Kootenay region agree that conserving private lands is a good way to preserve wildlife habitat and the region's natural landscape.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of species at risk occurrences in the Kootenays are on private land.

Over 12,650 hectares of wetlands in the Kootenay region were lost due to the development of hydroelectric dams.

1/4 of all remaining wetlands in the Kootenays are found on private land.



## CONSERVING PRIVATE LAND IN THE KOOTENAYS

The Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia is an incredible place of global ecological significance, offering critical habitat for an abundance of plant, animal and fish species— many of which are currently rare or endangered or at risk of becoming so. However, ecosystems here have been widely impacted.

Within the Kootenays, the richest habitat exists in valley bottoms, which is also where humans often choose to live. This means many critical habitats are found on private land.

Although private land covers a small portion of the region's total land base, keeping it ecologically intact plays a big part in conservation success.

By securing and stewarding ecologically important private lands, the Kootenay region has greater potential to sustain biodiversity. That's good news for all creatures, including humans.



# 9 MORE REASONS TO SUPPORT PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION



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.

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 ¼ of all remaining wetlands in the Kootenays are found on private land, making conservation of these ecologically-significant areas a high priority.

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.

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.

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.

CURIOUS 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  
Gillette's Checkerspot Butterfly

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.

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.

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.

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.

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