



2017 Fall Gathering and Annual General Meeting  
**“Grasslands to Wetlands: Connecting Diversity”**  
September 29-30, 2017  
Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort, Cranbrook, B.C.

### **About the Fall Gathering**

The KCP Fall Gathering serves as one of the primary vehicles to connect and re-connect KCP partners from across the region. The organizing theme for this year’s Fall Gathering is “Grasslands to Wetlands: Connecting Diversity”. We will explore how these ecosystems provide important valley bottom habitat and how to connect both as partners and on the landscape to conserve these habitats.

### **About the Annual General Meeting**

We will take advantage of this opportunity to also have a very short (1 hour) Annual General Meeting for KCP partners.

### **About the Kootenay Conservation Program**

The Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a partnership of over 80 conservation, industry, government and business organizations dedicated to conserving natural areas for Kootenay communities. The partnership coordinates and facilitates acquisitions, covenants and stewardship projects on private land. In addition, we work to build the organizational capacity of all of our partner organizations. Our vision is to have landscapes in the East and West Kootenay that sustain naturally functioning ecosystems that can in turn support economic and social well-being. We envision vibrant communities that demonstrate the principles of environmental stewardship for future generations.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Derek Petersen – Parks Canada (Chair)  
Dave White – East Kootenay Wildlife Association  
Adrian Leslie – Nature Conservancy Canada  
Jennifer Vogel – Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society  
Ken Brock – Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Chris Bosman – The Nature Trust of British Columbia



## SUPPORT TEAM

Juliet Craig – Program Manager, Kootenay Conservation Program

Marcy Mahr – Stewardship Coordinator, Kootenay Conservation Program

Nicole Trigg – Communications Coordinator, Kootenay Conservation Program

## GUEST SPEAKERS

Robin Annschild – Wetland Restoration Consulting

Tom Biebighauser – Wetland Restoration and Training LLC

DG Blair – Stewardship Centre for BC

Chris Bosman – The Nature Trust of BC

Sally Hammond – Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

Richard Klafki – Nature Conservancy of Canada

Deb MacKillop – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Marcy Mahr – Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

Hillary Page – Nature Conservancy of Canada

Michael Proctor – Trans-Border Grizzly Bear Project

Tasha Sargent – Canadian Wildlife Service

## PROGRAM SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada  
Service canadien de la faune



## MEAL SPONSORS



## AGENDA

2017 KCP Fall Gathering and Annual General Meeting:  
“Grasslands to Wetlands: Connecting Diversity”  
September 29-30, 2017  
Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort, Cranbrook, B.C.

### **Friday, September 29, 2017**

**12 pm to 12:45 pm HOSTED LUNCH** (sponsored by Keefer Ecological Services Ltd. and Lotic Environmental)

**12:45 pm to 1 pm – WELCOMING REMARKS**

- Welcome and KCP Updates: Derek Petersen, Chair of Kootenay Conservation Program

**1 pm to 1:15 pm - SETTING THE STAGE**

- Status of private land conservation in the Kootenays: Juliet Craig, KCP Program Manager

**1:15 to 2:30 pm GRASSLANDS TO WETLANDS**

*Given that grasslands and wetlands are two of the rarest ecosystems in the Kootenays, how can we best steward these ecosystems? 20 minutes each plus questions.*

- The new BC guidebook for classifying grasslands and wetlands: Deb MacKillop, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- What every landowner should know about wetlands, riparian habitats and species at risk conservation: DG Blair, Stewardship Centre for BC
- What every landowner should know about grasslands and conservation: Hillary Page, Nature Conservancy of Canada

**2:30 pm to 2:50 pm HOSTED COFFEE BREAK** (sponsored by Teck)

**2:50 pm to 3:45 pm CONNECTING DIVERSITY**

*The collaborative advantage, how does working together in diverse partnerships serve biological diversity? 20 minutes each plus panel questions.*

- Valley bottom hot spots for connecting grizzly bear habitat in the Kootenays: Michael Proctor, Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project
- Developing a community and ecosystem-based conservation plan: Marcy Mahr and Sally Hammond, Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

**3:45 pm to 4:30 pm KCP CONVERSATION CAFÉ: BURNING QUESTIONS FOR CONSERVATION:** *Objective/Question: Brainstorm of most burning questions and hot topics for working in the context of connected landscapes. Breakout discussion*

---



**4:30 pm to 4:45 pm CLOSING**

**4:45 pm to 5 pm BIO BREAK**

**5:00 pm – 6:00 pm KCP AGM**

- Report from Chair (Derek Petersen)
- Year in Review – Annual Report; Financial Report (Juliet Craig)
- Motions to Present
- Elections of Executive Committee

**6:30 pm – 9:00 pm HOSTED BANQUET** (sponsored by FortisBC)

- Cash Bar – Social; Banquet dinner
- KCP Conservation Leadership Award for 2017
- Connecting Diversity: Amazing Corridors in the Kootenays (Richard Klafki, Nature Conservancy of Canada; Chris Bosman, The Nature Trust of BC)
- “On the Shoulders of Giants” Feature Film Presentation: A 21-minute film about the value of private land conservation to Montana’s landscape, economy and way of life.

## **Saturday, September 30, 2017**

**BREAKFAST – ON YOUR OWN**

**8:15 to 8:30 am FIELD TOUR REGISTRATION**

Meet at Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort lobby. Dress for the weather and wear good walking shoes. Bring a water bottle. Lunch and snacks provided.

**8:30 am to 3:30 pm FIELD TOUR: AMAZING CORRIDORS IN THE KOOTENAYS**

Network with partners, see a wetland construction site on the ground and visit a stunning working ranch for conservation. Guest speakers include Tom Biebighauser (Wetland Restoration and Training LLC), Robin Annschild (Wetland Restoration and Consulting), Tasha Sargent (Canadian Wildlife Service), and Hillary Page (Nature Conservancy of Canada).