



2020 Virtual Fall Gathering and Annual General Meeting

“Conservation in a Time of Uncertainty: Adapting to Challenges” October 2 and 3, 2020

About the Fall Gathering

2020 has been a time of great uncertainty. Organizations and individuals have been required to adapt to new and changing circumstances. Thus, adaptation is the focus of KCP’s 2020 Fall Gathering, both in the context of COVID-19 but also in the context of conservation and ecosystems. This year’s theme is “Conservation in a Time of Uncertainty: Adapting to Challenges”. We will explore changes in conservation as a result of the pandemic (innovations in outreach, future funding forecasts) as well as mitigation and adaptation in ecosystems. We will take advantage of this opportunity to also have a virtual Annual General Meeting for KCP partners.

After careful consideration, KCP has decided to host this year’s Fall Gathering as a hybrid virtual event and localized field tours. This decision was made primarily to exercise an abundance of caution in consideration of the uncertainty around the impacts and threats of the COVID-19 virus. While we certainly hope that by the fall we will not be working under strict physical separation policies, we also recognize that the health guidelines continue to evolve and the direction for ‘essential travel only’ makes an in-person event particularly challenging to plan. We recognize the value in face-to-face events so we are including localized field tours of four conservation neighbourhoods with a limited number of people.

About Kootenay Conservation Program

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 Kootenays 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.



KCP BOARD

Derek Petersen – Parks Canada (Chair)
Candace Batycki – Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
Suzanne Bayley – Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Chris Bosman – The Nature Trust of British Columbia
Doris Hausleitner – Selkirk College
Rick Hoar – East Kootenay Wildlife Association
Adrian Leslie – Nature Conservancy of Canada
Ivy Whitehorne – Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service

SUPPORT TEAM

Juliet Craig – KCP Program Manager
Marcy Mahr – Kootenay Connect Project Manager and Stewardship Coordinator
Nicole Trigg – Communications Coordinator

GUEST SPEAKERS

Norm Allard – Lower Kootenay Band
Erin Bates – Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
Jon Bisset – Shuswap Indian Band
Suzanne Bayley – Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Marc-Andre Beaucher – Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area
Rachel Darvill – Wildsight Golden
Paul Galbraith – Windermere District Farmer's Institute
Rick Hoar – Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Leigh Anne Isaac – Kootenay Community Bat Project
Clayton Lamb – University of British Columbia
Wayne McCrory – Valhalla Wilderness Society
Casey McCormack - Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Kate Mackenzie – Nature Conservancy of Canada
Matt Morrison – BC Government
Ian Parfitt – Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre
Michael Proctor – Transborder Grizzly Bear Project
Greg Utzig – Kutenai Nature Investigations Ltd.
Duncan Whittick – Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network

AGENDA

2020 Virtual Fall Gathering and Annual General Meeting “Conservation in a Time of Uncertainty: Adapting to Challenges”

Friday, October 2, 2020 – AGM and Virtual Fall Gathering
(11 am to 3 pm PT; noon to 4 pm MT)

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| 10:50 am PT; (11:50 am MT) | Log into Zoom and get settled |
| 11 am PT; (Noon MT) | <p>KCP AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 Annual Report • 2019/20 Financial Report • Motion to add additional priority to KCP Strategic Priorities • Motion for policy of individuals as KCP partners • Board elections |
| 12 pm PT; (1 pm MT) | LUNCH BREAK |
| 12:45 pm PT; (1:45 pm MT) | <p>Welcome and Setting the Stage</p> <p><i>Goal of Session: Setting the stage for 2020 as a time of uncertainty and adaptation in conservation.</i></p> |
| 1 pm PT; (2 pm MT) | <p>Conservation in a Time of Uncertainty: Adapting to Challenges</p> <p><i>Goal of session: To share leading edge information on adapting to challenges in conservation as background to the Conservation café</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovating outreach during COVID-19 (Duncan Whittick, Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network); Many conservation organizations are having to adapt quickly to deliver outreach information. Find out some innovative tools and techniques being used. • Digital Mapping Technologies for Conservation (Ian Parfitt, Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre). Digital technologies can provide innovative approaches to conservation including mapping tools and drones. Find out what your organization could be using to improve field techniques. • Micro-habitat restoration techniques for climate change (Casey McCormack, Idaho Department of Fish and Game). Spatial topography for creating microclimates during restoration work. • Designing climate adaptation corridors from south to north (Greg Utzig, Kutenai Nature Investigations Ltd.) – South-North corridors to allow migration of species for climate change adaptation, and linking riparian restoration to cold water refugia |

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| 2 – 2:10 PT (3-3:10 MT) | Break |
| 2:10 pm PT; (3:10 pm MT) | KCP Conservation Café – Zoom breakout rooms <i>Goal of Session: Brainstorm of most burning questions and hot topics for conservation in a time of uncertainty including challenges, opportunities, collaborations and strategies.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the opportunities and strategies for (your topic)? • What partnerships or collaborations would help? • What three actions could you take to move this forward? |
| 2:45 pm PT (3:45 pm MT) | Conservation Leadership Awards Winners of Conservation Leadership Award announced |
| 3 pm PT; (4 pm MT) | Adjourn |

WITH VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Saturday, October 3, 2020 – Conservation Neighbourhood Field Tours

***** Local time, MUST pre-register**

KCP invites you to participate in a field tour in one of your local conservation neighbourhoods. Enjoy a physically distanced outdoor tour with snacks, beverages and hand sanitizer provided. Participants will use their private vehicles and are encouraged to bring a camping chair. Each tour will go from **1 pm to 4 pm** local time. Note that these field tours will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants. Priority registration will be given to representatives of KCP partner organizations.

| Conservation Neighbourhood | Local Host and Resource People | Topics/Tour |
|--|---|---|
| Kootenay Lake (Fish/Bear Lakes) | Marcy Mahr (KCP) with Wayne McCrory (Valhalla Wilderness Society) and Michael Proctor (Trans-border Grizzly Bear Project) | Explore the “Toad-Bear Corridor” in the Central Selkirk Mountains and learn about how toads are crossing the road, and why habitat connectivity and security for toads and bears is so important in this remote mountain pass. |
| Creston Valley (Yaqaan Nukiy Wetlands) Note Creston is on Pacific time | Juliet Craig (KCP) with Norm Allard (Lower Kootenay Band), Marc-Andre Beaucher (NLF Recovery Team), Matt Morrison (MFLNRORD) and Erin Bates (CKISS) | Join Norm Allard, Lower Kootenay Band to see the restoration work in the Yaqaan Nuki wetlands. Find out more about the northern leopard frog recovery, bullfrog invasion, invasive plant, and wetland restoration. |
| Columbia Valley (Galena Creek) | Nicole Trigg (KCP) with Jon Bisset (Shuswap Indian Band), Suzanne Bayley and Rick Hoar (Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners), Paul Galbraith (Windermere District Farmer’s Institute), Rachel Darvill (Wildsight Golden) | Learn about a joint Shuswap Indian Band-Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners restoration project on Galena Creek involving a new approach to opening fish passage and hydroriparian restoration work on agricultural land that will be a model for similar future projects in the Columbia Valley. Tour will also include a presentation on the CWSP project measuring water loss in local wetlands due to climate change, and on current species at risk surveys for Kootenay Connect. |
| Elk Valley (Morrissey Meadows) | Kate Mackenzie (Nature Conservancy of Canada), Leigh Anne Isaac (Kootenay Community Bat Project), and Clayton Lamb (UBC) | Explore the Nature Conservancy of Canada ‘Morrissey Meadows’ property near Fernie and learn about local wildlife values, species at risk, landscape linkage, and wildlife crossings and corridors. |