

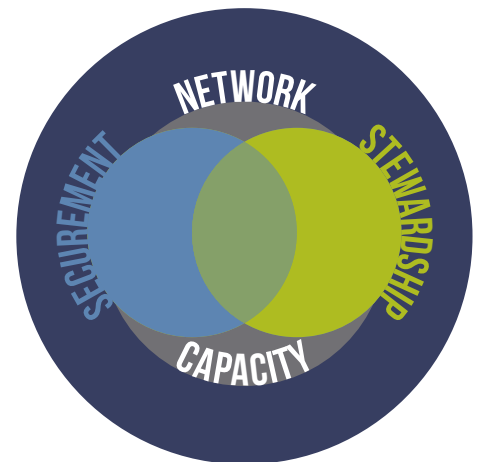


KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2017-2022

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

KCP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The foundation of the KCP partnership is a common approach to land conservation through coordinated securement, stewardship and capacity building. KCP serves as an important regional network for conservation organizations. We will endeavour, where possible, to use the social capital of the partnership to achieve the vision of the KCP.



PURPOSE

Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP) is a broad partnership of land and water conservation and stewardship groups, government agencies, resource industries, and agricultural producers working throughout the East and West Kootenays. The partnership seeks to cooperatively conserve the biological diversity and naturally functioning ecosystems of the region while providing mutual project support and leveraging technical and financial resources.

VISION

The KCP 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.

MANDATE

The KCP mandate is to coordinate and facilitate conservation efforts on private land, and to generate the support and resources needed to maintain this effort.

KCP does not directly pursue conservation projects. Rather, as a partnership, KCP supports its members to pursue activities that help realize shared goals.

GOAL 1 SECUREMENT

INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS, COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION OF PRIVATE LAND SECUREMENT.

Although private lands only make up ~8 % of BC, they contain 87 % of species at risk. Securement is the acquisition (fee simple) or long-term protection (covenants) of private lands for conservation purposes and protects conservation values on a property for generations to come. KCP's mandate of protecting healthy functioning ecosystems relies on important habitats like wetlands, riparian areas and mature forests that occur in the valley bottoms. From a large landscape perspective, undeveloped land

in valley bottoms acts as the connective tissue between adjacent mid and high elevation habitats; the protection of which allows contiguous wildlife travel corridors to exist between different higher elevation habitats. There are many organizations involved in land securement in the Kootenays including the Nature Conservancy of Canada, The Nature Trust of BC, and the provincial government. KCP plays a critical role in ensuring coordination of securement activities.

1.1 Facilitate, support and coordinate private land securement efforts

1.2 Prioritize efforts to ensure that securement is focused on the most valuable properties for conservation objectives

1.3 Provide a coordinated and collaborative approach for private land securement inquiries and information

1.4 Increase securement funding and acquisitions



GOAL 2 STEWARDSHIP

INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION OF STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE ON PRIVATE LANDS.

Stewardship promotes responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. In the Kootenays, over 80 organizations are involved in stewardship which can focus on grassland restoration, invasive species control, species at risk management, and wetland construction to name a few. Components of private land stewardship include conservation planning to ensure the “biggest bang for the buck”, reaching out to landowners to provide them

with information and motivation to be stewards of their property; protecting biodiversity hotspots and maintaining wildlife corridors and connectivity areas in the face of climate disruption; and applying conservation tools to local government planning. These activities protect vulnerable native species, provide ecosystem services, and promote healthy and vibrant natural habitats as well as local human communities that are connected to their natural surroundings.

2.1 Increase collaboration and coordination between partners

2.2 Facilitate neighbourhood conservation planning to identify conservation targets and high priority actions

2.3 Promote a coordinated approach to landowner outreach for conservation

2.4 Foster a Landscape Approach to Conserve Biodiversity, Wildlife Corridors and Ecological Connectivity

2.5 Support local governments to incorporate and apply conservation principles into local land use planning

GOAL 3 CAPACITY

BUILD AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL CAPACITY FOR KCP AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE SECUREMENT AND STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES.

The broad range of KCP Partners bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to conservation and resource management in the Kootenay region. One of KCP's roles is to facilitate the sharing of technical resources among partners and others so that land and water stewardship considers the best available information and practices. Many of KCP Partners are non-profit societies or other

organizations with limited funding and staff capacity. KCP has identified the need to build financial capacity of these partners and has played an instrumental role in establishing local conservation funds in the region. In order to continue the valuable role that this conservation partnership plays, KCP must ensure that its internal capacity as an organization is also maintained.

3.1 Develop the technical capacity of partners to become leaders and innovators in implementing biodiversity conservation

3.2 Build and promote financial capacity for partners

3.3 Maintain KCP capacity to ensure financial viability and organizational resilience



GOAL 4 NETWORK

STRENGTHEN THE NETWORK OF CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS TO ACHIEVE EFFICIENCIES, SYNERGIES AND ULTIMATELY GREATER EFFECTIVENESS.

With diverse landscapes, relatively large geographic distances, and a multitude of active conservation organizations, the Kootenays is a special place. The basic premise of KCP is that we work better and more effectively together than apart. KCP is regarded as an important regional network capable of bringing diverse perspectives and partners to the table

to support conservation initiatives and form a cohesive conservation community. KCP also works beyond its boundaries to bring resources, knowledge and skills to the region. Finally, KCP recognizes the contributions of its partners by showcasing their conservation successes within and outside the region.

4.1 Foster engagement, communication, and connection within the partnership

4.2 Represent KCP interests and connections outside current partner organizations

4.3 Showcase conservation efforts including the achievements of KCP and its partners



KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM SERVICE AREA



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KCP recognizes the support of our major funders



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