



Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund: Approved Projects: 2010 – 2021



Photos (clockwise from top): Columbia Lake Stewardship Society, Bonnie-Lou Ferris, Pat Morrow, Rachel Darvill

2021

Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands - \$20,000 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to complete the mapping of biodiversity hotspots in the Columbia Wetlands and Columbia Valley, and initiate the program to enhance the conservation of Species at Risk, important focal species, their habitats and important landscape corridors.

Upper Columbia Swallow Habitat Enhancement Project - \$19,300 to Wildsight Golden to build increased awareness for swallow species and their conservation status, coordinate volunteers to inventory/monitor swallow nests and erect artificial nesting structures for swallows to increase habitat availability.

Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship Project - \$17,985 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to enhance the region's ecology by rewarding contracted farmers to take extraordinary stewardship action to conserve and enhance important riparian areas on their farms.

Columbia River Headwater Lakes Monitoring & Education: Lake Windermere - \$14,350 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to address the environmental and community concerns through community engagement in water quality monitoring, translation of monitoring data into achievable actions by local government and community, and revitalization of the Lake Windermere foreshore.

Kootenay River Ranch Land Stewardship Activities- \$14,000 to The Nature Conservancy of Canada to create and restore resiliency on conservation lands that support important wildlife habitat, to improving habitat diversity, and to continue annual invasive plant management and monitoring on the property.

Columbia River Headwater Lakes Monitoring & Education: Columbia Lake- \$13,000 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to undertake water quality and quantity monitoring and community outreach to improve knowledge of water resources and the steps that can be taken to protect them.

Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of the invasive plant Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Windermere Creek Restoration - Friends of Windermere Creek- \$5,000 to the Lake Windermere Rod & Gun Club to determine the technical feasibility of re-routing water to the upstream wetland to reduce extreme flooding and increase ecological value of the wetland.

2020

Reintroducing Northern Leopard Frogs to the Columbia Marshes - \$21,000 to the Calgary Zoo to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Conservation of Biodiversity in the Columbia Wetlands - \$20,000 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to determine the locations and develop maps of biodiversity hotspots in the Columbia Wetlands and Columbia Valley, which will be used to prioritize and enhance the conservation of species at risk and important focal species.

Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship Project - \$17,985 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to enhance the region's ecology by rewarding contracted farmers to take extraordinary stewardship action to conserve and enhance important riparian areas on their farms.

Luxor Linkage Resiliency and Forest Restoration Project - \$15,000 to The Nature Conservancy of Canada to restore 10-20 ha of Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir forest to dry open forest structure within the Luxor Linkage Conservation Area.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$13,000 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps that can be taken to protect them.

Lake Windermere Community-Based Water Monitoring Project - \$11,296 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Columbia Valley Swallow Project - \$10,000 to Wildsight Golden to build increased awareness for swallow species and their conservation status, coordinate volunteers to inventory/monitor swallow nests and erect artificial nesting structures for swallows to increase habitat availability.

Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

2019

Reintroducing Northern Leopard Frogs to the Columbia Marshes - \$19,000 to the Calgary Zoo to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship Project - \$17,985 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to enhance the region's ecology by rewarding contracted farmers to take extraordinary stewardship action to conserve and enhance important riparian areas on their farms.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$13,000 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps that can be taken to protect them.

Marion Creek Benchlands Forest Restoration Project - \$12,473 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to restore at least 16 hectares of Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir forest to dry open forest structure.

Lake Windermere Community-Based Water Monitoring Project - \$10,000 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$10,000 to the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Wrapping up the Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey - \$8,000 to Wildsight Golden to collect baseline inventory bird data utilizing citizen-scientists to use for application of an Important Bird Area (IBA) status for the Columbia Wetlands.

Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

2018

Columbia Wetlands Edgewater Purchase - \$400,000 (over two years) to The Nature Trust of BC towards the purchase of 171 ha of high value land for conservation located north of Radium.

Luxor Linkage Resiliency and Forest Restoration Project - \$32,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to restore at least 13 hectares of Rocky Mountain Douglas-fir forest to dry open forest structure in this Conservation Area that provides important habitat for wildlife and serves as a linkage corridor used by species migrating between the Purcells and Kootenay National Park.

Reintroducing Northern Leopard Frogs to the Columbia Marshes - \$19,084 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship Project - \$17,985 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to enhance the region's ecology by rewarding contracted farmers to take extraordinary stewardship action to conserve and enhance important riparian areas on their farms.

Lake Windermere Community-Based Water Monitoring Project - \$12,870 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$11,000 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps that can be taken to protect them.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$10,000 to the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

2017

Reintroducing northern leopard frogs to the Columbia marshes - \$28,000 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$11,900 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps we can take to protect them.

Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Project - \$11,000 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Columbia Valley Farmland Advantage Stewardship Project - \$10,700 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to enhance the region's ecology by rewarding contracted farmers to take extraordinary stewardship action to conserve and enhance important riparian areas on their farms.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$10,000 to the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Columbia Wetlands Waterbird Survey - \$6,500 to Wildsight Golden to collect baseline inventory bird data utilizing citizen-scientists to use for application of an Important Bird Area (IBA) status for the Columbia Wetlands.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Abel Creek Rehabilitation Project - \$3,000 to the Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club to increase the quantity of high quality spawning habitat in Abel Creek for native species within the Columbia River watershed.

2016

Reintroducing northern leopard frogs to the Columbia marshes - \$29,000 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program – \$11,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council aims to prevent the establishment of new invasive plant species, control existing noxious and priority species and, where possible, eradicate noxious and priority invasive plants on private lands in the Columbia Valley using an integrated approach.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$10,000 to the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Climate and Water Conservation Action Initiatives - \$8,500 to Groundswell Network Society to provide measurable, achievable, actions addressing water conservation and climate change impacts.

Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Project - \$8,500 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$5,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$2,800 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps we can take to protect them.

2015

Reintroducing northern leopard frogs to the Columbia marshes - \$29,767 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to re-establish self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frogs in the Columbia marshes.

Climate and Water Conservation Action Initiatives - \$25,000 to Groundswell Network Society to provide measurable, achievable, actions addressing water conservation and climate change impacts.

Columbia Lake - Lot 48 Ecosystem Restoration Project - \$24,564 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to create resilient ecosystems through the restoration of open forest and grassland communities in areas where forest ingrowth and encroachment are occurring.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$15,807 to the Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society to promote and conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Columbia Lake Ecosystem Monitoring and Education - \$12,035 to the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society to improve knowledge of water resources and steps we can take to protect them.

Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program – \$11,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council aims to prevent the establishment of new invasive plant species, control existing noxious and priority species and, where possible, eradicate noxious and priority invasive plants on private lands in the Columbia Valley using an integrated approach.

Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Project - \$11,000 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to undertake water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

Ecological Goods & Services Project - \$7,500 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to preserve the ecological integrity of this region at the landscape level by taking into consideration management practices that may collectively impact the health of an ecosystem, while identifying new ways to enhance or conserve existing ecological services on agricultural land.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$5,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Upper Columbia Watershed Community-Based Groundwater Monitoring Project - \$3,100 to Wildsight to develop an understanding of the connection between groundwater, the local water table, precipitation, and water withdrawals in the Lake Windermere watershed.

2014

Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction - \$29,890 to the Columbia Valley Stewardship Partners towards the re-establishment of self-sustaining populations of northern leopard frog in the Columbia Marshes.

Climate Action Initiatives - \$25,000 to Groundswell Network Society to provide measurable, achievable actions addressing climate change impacts in the Kootenays.

Dutch Findlay Ecosystem Restoration - \$19,920 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to help create resilient ecosystems through the restoration of open forest structure in closed coniferous stands which will resist climate change, safeguard communities from catastrophic forest fire and create habitat for threatened species.

Kootenay Community Bat Project - \$13,788 to the Kootenay Community Bat Project to help conserve the variety of bat species and their associated habitats that exist in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program - \$13,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council for the prevention of the establishment of new invasive plant species, controlling existing noxious and priority species and, where possible, eradication noxious and priority invasive plants on private lands in the Columbia Valley using an integrated approach.

Lake Enid Restoration and Conservation Project - \$6,000 to Wildsight to restore the damaged riparian and grassland ecosystems on the northeast side of Lake Enid and conserve them by protecting them from future damage.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge (SIPCOLS) - \$5,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to decrease the infestation levels of Leafy Spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Abel Creek Barrier Project - \$5,000 to the Lake Windermere & District Rod & Gun Club to explore options to allow fish to navigate beyond a man-made obstruction that is blocking passage to high quality fish habitat.

Columbia Lake Water Monitoring - \$3,400 to the Columbia Ridge Community Association towards the provision of consistent water quality monitoring on Columbia Lake by involving community organizations and residents in gathering the data.

Lake Windermere Water Quality Attainment Monitoring - \$3,000 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to assist in Lake Windermere water quality monitoring and community water stewardship education.

2013

Lot 48 Columbia Lake - \$700,000 (\$100,000 per year for 7 years) to the Nature Conservancy of Canada towards the purchase of 127 ha of high value land for conservation located south of Fairmont Hot Springs on the eastern shore of Columbia Lake.

Hoodoo Access Management Project - \$17,500 to the Nature Trust of BC towards protecting and maintaining the ecological integrity of the Hoodoo conservation property through motorized access control measures such as barriers, signage and public communications.

Marion Creek Benchlands - \$15,823 to the Nature Conservancy Canada towards enhancing and protecting wetland values through livestock exclusion fencing.

Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP) - \$15,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council towards the increased awareness by landowners of invasive plants and supporting these landowners to address invasive plants through resources, equipment and financial support.

Ecological Services Project - \$13,000 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute towards expanding a voluntary, incentive based, private land conservation program that pays landowners and farmers to maintain and enhance the natural assets that they manage.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge (SIPCOLS) Program - \$6,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council towards the control of Leafy Spurge infestations in close proximity to Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP) clients and the Columbia Valley Wetlands.

Water Quality Monitoring and Shoreline Restoration Project - \$4,700 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society towards collecting current data on the water quality and ecological health of Lake Windermere while upgrading a portion of the shoreline at Kinsmen Beach to provide high quality fish and wildlife habitat as per local shoreline management guidelines.

2012

Hoodoo Conservation Property Management Project - \$33,500 to the Nature Trust of BC to selectively installing fencing, gates and signage, restrict motor vehicles in sensitive ecosystems and help the public appreciate the biodiversity of the Hoodoo property.

Dutch-Findley Private Conservation Land Open Forest Restoration Project - \$18,950 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada towards the Ecosystem Restoration Project to enhance open forest and grassland habitats on private lands in the Dutch-Findley area on the west side of Columbia Lake. Partnerships project with other organizations involved.

Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP) - \$16,000 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to help educate landowners and provide financial assistance to help them remove weeds and reduce the threat to biodiversity from invasive species.

Reintroducing the Northern Leopard Frog to the Upper Columbia Marshes - \$15,620 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to reintroduce this Species-at-Risk to historic habitat contained in the Columbia Marshes north of Radium Hot Springs. This project builds on a previous research project supported by the CVLCF and implements recommendations arising from that work.

Lake Windermere Ambassadors - Water Quality Attainment - \$10,624 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society to assist in water quality monitoring, shoreline restoration and water stewardship outreach.

Boulder Creek Diversion Project - \$10,000 to the Toby Benches Society and Lake Windermere Rod and Gun Club to improve water quality in two lakes and three streams and increase water quality for several wetlands by constructing a small dam and installing 3.5 km of irrigation pipe.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$7,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to decrease the infestation of leafy spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Ecological Goods and Services Project - \$4,000 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to test and demonstrate a voluntary, incentive based, private land conservation program that pays landowners and farmers to maintain and enhance the natural assets that they manage.

2011

Marion Creek Benchlands Purchase - \$100,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada towards the purchase of 205 ha of high value land for conservation located southwest of Fairmont Hot Springs.

Boulder Creek Diversion Project - \$70,000 to the Toby Benches Society and Lake Windermere Rod and Gun Club to improve water quality in two lakes and three streams and increase water quality for several wetlands by constructing a small dam and installing 3.5 km of irrigation pipe.

Limber Pine Restoration Project - \$20,000 to the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation Canada to collect limber pine seeds, propagate seedlings, plant limber pine primarily on private land. Limber pine is a threatened species in British Columbia.

Thunder Hill Ranch Ecosystem Restoration - \$20,000 to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to continue grassland ecosystem restoration on 48 ha of NCC's Thunder Hill Ranch located on the west side of Columbia Lake.

Lake Windermere Ambassadors - Water Quality Attainment - \$18,000 to the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society and Wildsight to assist the Ambassador's Society in water quality monitoring, shoreline restoration and water stewardship outreach.

Columbia Valley Invasive Plants Neighbourhood Program - \$17,700 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute & East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to inventory and map invasive weeds. Help educate landowners and provide financial assistance to help them remove weeds and reduce the threat to biodiversity.

Hoodoo Conservation Property Access Management - \$17,500 to the Nature Trust of BC for selectively installing fencing, gates and signage, restrict motor vehicles in sensitive ecosystems and help the public appreciate the biodiversity of the Hoodoo property.

Strategic Invasive Plant Control of Leafy Spurge - \$8,500 to the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council to decrease the infestation of leafy spurge in the Upper Columbia Valley.

Sinclair Creek Native Plant Restoration - \$5,190 to Wildsight to remove invasive weeds, replace them with native plants, educate the public on the impact of native weeds on local landscapes in conjunction with Radium Hot Springs.

Ecological Goods and Services Project - \$5,000 to the Windermere and District Farmers' Institute to test and demonstrate a voluntary, incentive based, private land conservation program that pays landowners and farmers to maintain and enhance the natural assets that they manage.

2010

Columbia Valley Invasive Plants Neighbourhood Program - \$24,000 to ensure private land owners in Electoral Areas F and G are aware of invasive weeds and to take action to control/eradicate them working with 100 landowners.

Northern Leopard Frog Reintroduction - \$13,800 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to assess the Upper Columbia River Valley wetlands for reintroducing Northern Leopard Frogs, an endangered species.

Lake Windermere Project - \$10,000 to Wildsight to protect and enhance the water quality of Lake Windermere by means of interagency cooperation, scientific water quality monitoring, public engagement, and on-going citizen-based monitoring.

Limber Pine Restoration Project - \$10,000 to the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation to enhance recruitment, seed collection, seedling propagation, and seed and seedling planting of this blue listed species of conservation concern.

Columbia River - Restoration of Fairmont Reach - \$8,750 to the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners to restore riparian habitat that is critical for spawning Kokanee and the rare Lewis's woodpecker, as well as other aquatic and riparian dependant species.

Abel Creek Restoration and Stewardship - \$5,000 to the District of Invermere to protect and restore Abel Creek as a healthy riparian stream ecosystem through restoration and stewardship activities.

Ecological Goods and Services Demonstration Project - \$5,000 to the Windermere District Farmers' Institute to test and demonstrate a voluntary, incentive based, private land conservation program that pays landowners to maintain and enhance the natural assets that they manage.