



# Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

*Summary, June 2021*

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## KLLCF Background

- Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF) was established in Electoral Areas A, D and E as a Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Service in 2014
- Residents pay \$15 per parcel per year in tax towards conservation
- This fund supports conservation of aquatic systems and water, wildlife and habitat

## KLLCF Accomplishments

- \$397,000 invested from 2016 to 2020; over \$1.14 million in partner dollars leveraged, not including a large conservation acquisition, which if included, raises the leveraged funding to \$19 million
- Supported securement of one property: Next Creek (7,900 ha; 19,500 acres), adding to Canada's largest private land conservation acquisition within the Nature Conservancy of Canada's Darkwoods Conservation Area
- Approved 29 projects that have focused on: restoration (grassland, creek and wetland); invasive plant management; species at risk recovery; land acquisition; water quality monitoring; climate conservation action and incentives for landowners

## KLLCF Benefits

- Expansion of Darkwoods Conservation Area for long-term conservation
- Citizen-science water quality monitoring and osprey monitoring
- Protecting bat colonies that reduce agricultural and forestry pests
- Recovery of species at risk (western toad)
- Creation of wildflower meadows to promote pollinators
- Restoration of Kootenay Lake spawning habitat for Kokanee salmon
- Reduction of human-wildlife conflict and protection of grizzly bears
- Increased awareness of the Shorelines Guidance Document that protects Kootenay Lake
- Fewer invasive plants and improved forage for ungulates
- Restoration activities in riparian areas that support bull trout and kokanee spawners
- Functioning wetlands, creeks, and grasslands that improve water quality
- Creating local economic opportunities for jobs, contracts, materials and supplies



## KLLCF Leadership

- Kootenay Lake RDCK Directors and their communities seen as innovative leaders
- Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen adopted Local Conservation Fund in 2016 based on the Columbia Valley and Kootenay Lake examples
- KLLCF Directors have commissioned a Guidance Document for the KLLCF to identify strategic priorities for conservation in the region; no other local conservation fund has taken this type of strategic approach

## Supporting Local Land Use Goals

The projects and acquisition supported by the KLLCF have worked towards many of the values and goals outlined in the land use plans for Areas A, D and E including:

- To preserve water quality in Kootenay Lake and other identifiable lakes.
- To encourage the maintenance of Provincially identified wildlife winter range.
- Maintain high water quality of groundwater and surface water sources of domestic water supply.
- Foster an awareness of the values associated with the natural environment and conserve sensitive and significant natural features and values from negative impacts as a result of development.
- Encourage the maintenance of biodiversity, important to the biological functioning and ecological integrity of the area.
- Conserve the natural values in recognition of their importance to the local economy, residents, visitors, as a natural amenity, and for wildlife and ecological functioning.

## KLLCF Contact Information

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