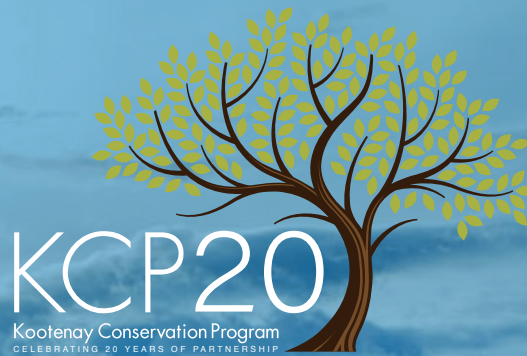


Together we're taking care of our natural
landscapes and our Kootenay way of life.



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP 2002-2022

November 2022

KOOTENAYCONSERVATION.CA



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The accomplishments of the KCP partnership over the past 20 years have been remarkable.

Highlights include:

- Conserved 241,109 hectares of land, including 82,679 hectares of private land, and acquired 57 properties across the Kootenays by land trusts with KCP coordination
- Identified 40 priority actions across seven Conservation Action Forums
- Of the 37 Priority Actions identified across the first six Conservation Action Forums, partners completed or actively pursued 36 Actions (97%) by April 2022
- Brought together 32 partners across four focal areas for Kootenay Connect, coordinating projects that help protect 32 federally-listed species at risk and 40 federally-listed species of special concern
- From 2010 to 2021, the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund approved 101 grants totalling \$2.55 million, leveraging nearly nine times that amount in additional grants and in-kind contributions
- From 2016 to 2021, the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund approved 37 grants totalling nearly \$468,000, leveraging over four times that amount in external grants and in-kind support,

not including two conservation acquisitions, which if included, raises the leveraged funding to 43 times additional funding

- Delivered 34 webinars between 2017-2022 with 1,487 attendees on topics ranging from restoration projects to investing in resilient landscapes to old growth forests
- Growth of KCP partners by nearly 250% in the last 20 years, from 36 in 2002 to 85 in 2022

Kootenay Conservation Program has prided itself on being a bottom-up and partner led program from its initiation 20 years ago. During its evolution KCP has attempted to be receptive and responsive to the needs of its broad and diverse partner members. The ultimate success of the program can only be measured relative to the contribution that KCP makes in supporting and achieving the shared conservation objectives of the partners. So it is with this in mind that we celebrate together with our partners in 20 years of advanced conservation in the Kootenays.

Beyond our member partners, it is through the dedication and leadership demonstrated by the following individuals/groups that KCP can stand



proudly behind the accomplishments achieved over the course of its existence.

The collective vision of the KCP partnership has been guided by those individuals and organizations who have worked tirelessly on the Executive Committee and Board of KCP. They bring dedication and a collaborative spirit to working together towards conservation goals. These individuals have included: Norm Allard, Candace Batycki, Suzanne Bayley, Chris Bosman, Ken Brock, Doris Hausleitner, Crystal Klym, Dave Hillary, Rick Hoar, Adrian Leslie, Rob Neil, Nancy Newhouse, Trevor Oussoren, Ian Parnell, Derek Petersen, Tasha Sargent, Jennifer Vogel, Dave White, and Ivy Whitehorne.

KCP's shared vision and conservation successes would not be achieved without the support of our many funding partners, for whom we are extremely grateful. We appreciate all the contributions over the years and are particularly appreciative of those organizations who have provided substantial funding: Columbia Basin Trust, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Columbia Region, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Heart of the Rockies, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Real Estate Foundation, Schad Foundation, The Nature Trust of BC,

University of Montana, and the Vancouver Foundation. We are also grateful for the smaller donations and contributions made by many organizations and local businesses in the support of individual KCP activities and events.

Myself, on behalf of the KCP Board and partnership, would like to acknowledge and thank the contractors of the KCP team over the years: Kendal Benesh, Juliet Craig, Kelly Diamond, Claire de la Salle (Peyton), Dave Hillary, Marcy Mahr, Nancy Newhouse, Adrienne Shaw, Darrell Smith, Wayne Stetski, Nicole Trigg, and Duncan Whittick for their dedication, passion and the professionalism to which they moved the program forward and strived to achieve the collective vision of KCP.

And lastly, an acknowledgement to the interest, engagement and commitment of our many partner individuals, groups and organizations. We can look back with some nostalgia on the first 20 years ... but recognize the need to look forward with anticipation and enthusiasm to what is possible together in the coming decades!

Derek Petersen
Chair, Kootenay Conservation Program



2022 EAST KOOTENAY SPRING TOUR, WYCLIFFE CONSERVATION COMPLEX
KENDAL BENESH/KCP PHOTO

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



KCP is an exemplary model and demonstrates the seven principles that provide a roadmap for success in conservation partnerships.¹

These principles are:

- **Mutual interest and shared vision** create the alignment needed for collaboration.
- **Clear communication**, both internal and external, maintains integrity and smooth functioning.
- **Recognition and appreciation of diversity combined with a strong foundation of trust** fosters a productive and positive atmosphere.
- **Empowered leadership and effective decision-making** balance efficiency and inclusion.
- **Accountability and routine evaluation** provide valuable feedback on goals and objectives.
- **Adaptability and creativity** foster breakthrough thinking and innovation.
- **Sustainable resources** – both human and financial – maintain the foundation of a viable partnership

KCP partners, in demonstrating these principles, have created a program which is recognized both throughout the province and nationally. KCP continues to grow and succeed, thanks to the dedication, commitment and support of the KCP Board (and previous Executive Committees and Steering Committees), KCP Team Members, KCP Partners, and KCP Funders, all who have recognized the benefits of working in partnership. For the past six years, I have been honored and privileged to be part of the Kootenay Conservation Program team.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juliet Craig".

Juliet Craig

Program Director, Kootenay Conservation Program

¹ Clements-Hart, H., and L. Marz. 2011. Seven Principles for Effective Conservation Partnership. <http://www.leighmarz.com/pdfs/Seven%20Principles%20for%20Effective%20Conservation%20Partnerships.pdf>



CONSERVING PRIVATE LAND IN THE KOOTENAYS

The Kootenay Conservation Program respectfully acknowledges that we live and work in the ancestral unceded territories of the Ktunaxa, Secwépemc, Sinixt, and Syilx Okanagan peoples who have stewarded this land for many generations. We are honored to live in this place and are committed to reconciliation, decolonization and building relationships in our partnership and our communities.

KCP's mandate is to 'coordinate and facilitate conservation efforts on private land, and to generate the support and resources needed to maintain this effort'. But why private land?





COLUMBIA WETLANDS, PAT MORROW PHOTO

The Kootenay region of southeastern British Columbia is an incredible place of global ecological significance, offering critical habitat for an abundance of plant, animal and fish species— many of which are currently rare or endangered or at risk of becoming so.

In our mountainous terrain, the richest habitat exists in valley bottoms which is also where humans often choose to live, recreate and earn a living. This means many important habitats are found on private land and although private land covers a small portion (approximately 8%) of the region's total land base, keeping it ecologically intact plays a big part in conservation success.

By securing and stewarding ecologically important private lands, the Kootenay region has greater potential to sustain biodiversity and keep habitats connected as the climate changes.





10 IMPORTANT REASONS TO CONSERVE ...

1 FRESH WATER, CLEAN AIR.

When healthy, the natural world offers an abundance of goods and services, including clean air and fresh water. It is not just flora and fauna that rely on these systems, human communities also depend on functional ecosystems. Many ecological services take place on private land. The maintenance and restoration of these services supports the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and much more.

2 ECOSYSTEM THREATS.

Habitats and species in the Kootenays face many threats, most of which are linked to human activity. Ecosystems most heavily impacted by human activity are low elevation grasslands, forests, wetlands and riparian areas. Although the scale and type of threat varies, private land conservation can help to protect or enhance impacted or threatened ecosystems.

3 VALLEY BOTTOMS.

In the Kootenay region, high elevation and mountainous areas receive more protection, usually in the form of parks. Low elevation, valley bottom areas tend to be underrepresented. Private land conservation therefore focuses on valley bottom ecosystems: areas with high ecological significance, that lack other provincial protections, and that may face threats from development or industrial activities.

4 **WETLANDS.** Often known as nature's kidney, wetlands improve water quality, store floodwater, and support surface water flow during dry spells. Plus, they provide habitat for more than 30% of British Columbia's species of conservation concern². Today 1/4 of all remaining wetlands and 1/3 of cottonwood forests in the Kootenays are found on private land³, making conservation of these ecologically significant areas a high priority.

5 **SPECIES AT RISK.** Over 350 species of plants, animals and fungi are considered "at risk" in British Columbia. More than half of known occurrences in the Kootenays are on valley bottom private land, with higher concentrations in the East Kootenay. That means private land conservation is essential in ensuring species have what they need to survive, especially those at risk.

6 **OLD-GROWTH FORESTS.** Low elevation old-growth forests support the health of entire watersheds and provide critical habitat for numerous species. Many of the Kootenay region's low elevation old-growth forests have been compromised due to human activities, including forestry practices and reservoirs created by hydroelectric dams. In the Kootenays, many of the remaining old-growth forests are located in moist valley bottom areas.

... PRIVATE LAND IN THE KOOTENAYS

7 GRASSLANDS & DRY FORESTS. More than 30% of the province's species at risk call grasslands home⁴. Within the Kootenay region, grasslands and dry forests are more abundant at low elevations and are often found on private land. Without sound conservation and stewardship of these lands, the ecological integrity of these fragile spaces will continue to erode. As well, ongoing stewardship can promote long-term fire resilience: less ground fuel, more healthy habitats.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE. Warmer temperatures, fluctuating precipitation patterns and new wildfire regimes will cause many ecosystems to change. However, not all ecosystems will change at the same rate. Climate change refugia are places within a landscape that will not experience the impacts as quickly, giving plant and animal species time to adapt. Connecting refugia is key, as it provides habitat corridors between these places, on both regional and large landscape scales. In the face of a changing climate, conservation of these critical locations can help to create a more ecologically-resilient region.

9 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS. In the Kootenay region, human population is densest at valley bottoms, making travelling across valleys difficult or impossible for wildlife. Private land conservation can help to create wildlife corridors for numerous species, including grizzly bears, wolverine, elk and mountain caribou. In many cases, the conservation of key parcels of low elevation private land ensures landscape level habitat connectivity, thereby conserving the ecological integrity of much larger areas.

10 CONSERVATION OPTIONS. Conserving private land in perpetuity is possible, thanks to securement tools such as land acquisition and conservation covenants. In KCP's 2018 market research polling⁵, nearly 95% of residents in the Kootenays think it's important to protect natural ecosystems in order to maintain quality of life. Land trusts are instrumental in acquiring properties for conservation in perpetuity, either through owning the property outright (fee-simple acquisition) or holding a conservation covenant on the property that restricts some activities.

2 Austin, M.A., D.A. Buffett, D.J. Nicolson, G.G.E. Scudder and V. Stevens (eds.). 2008. Taking Nature's Pulse: The Status of Biodiversity in British Columbia. Biodiversity BC, Victoria, BC. 268 pp. Available at: www.biodiversitybc.org.
3 KCP mapping analysis (2018, 2022)

4 www.bcgrasslands.org
5 NRG Research Group. 2019. Kootenay Region Research Study. Prepared for Kootenay Conservation Program.

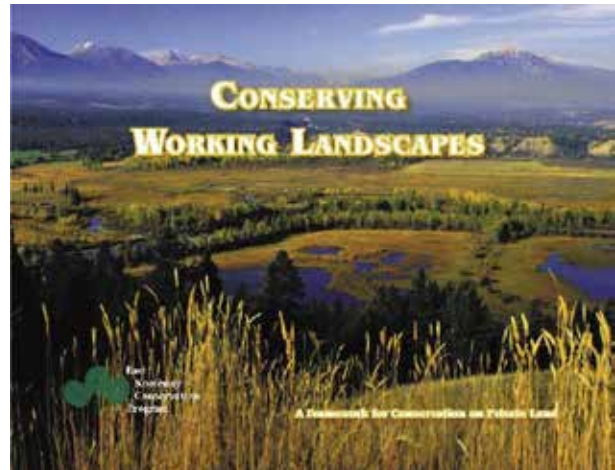
ABOUT KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM



In 2002, individuals and organizations in the East Kootenay were seeing rapid changes in the landscape and recognized the importance of private land conservation in conserving community and natural values.

Committed stewardship groups, Indigenous communities, government agencies, agricultural producers, and land trusts came together to form the East Kootenay Conservation Program (EKCP) partnership, dedicated to conserving the rich biological diversity of the East Kootenay while balancing economic and social needs of the community and the people who live there. The partnership recognized both the challenges and benefits of focusing on common conservation priorities through effective communication, sharing expertise, mutual project support, and leveraged funding. An invitation to the partnership was shared through the *"Conserving Working Landscapes"* prospectus.

The success of working together in partnership was being demonstrated on the ground in the East Kootenay. Land trusts were working together on conservation targets for habitat protection, including grasslands, wetlands, and riparian areas. In 2008, the partnership successfully worked with the Regional District of East Kootenay to implement a tax-based fund for conservation (Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund), which provided an important opportunity for groups to access



'CONSERVING WORKING LANDSCAPES: A FRAMEWORK FOR CONSERVATION ON PRIVATE LAND' PROSPECTUS (2003) PROVIDED THE VISION AND GOALS FOR THE EAST KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

financial resources to participate in land securement and/or stewardship projects in participating electoral areas. The partnership also demonstrated the role that coordination and leveraged funding could play in collaborative conservation efforts.

Leading up to 2012, individuals and organizations in the West Kootenay were expressing a similar interest in this type of collaborative partnership. In response, in that year, EKCP expanded its service area and re-branded to become Kootenay Conservation Program (KCP). This extension brought West Kootenay-based partners into its network and created an opportunity for a coordinated approach to conservation throughout the entire Kootenay region.

EKCP began as a partnership of 36 conservation, industry and government organizations dedicated to conserving natural areas for East Kootenay communities. Twenty

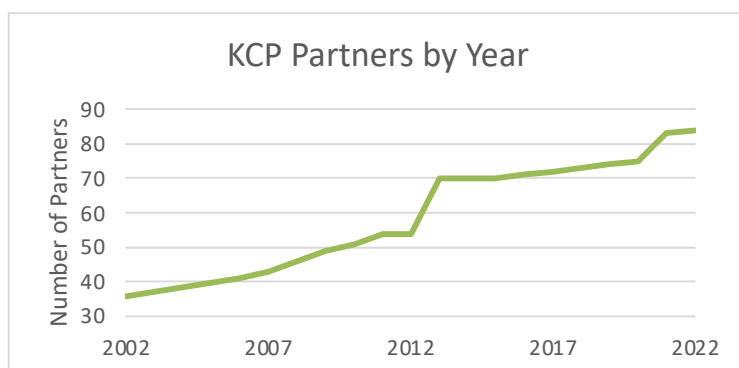


EAST MEETS WEST CONFERENCE IN 2012 CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND ITS EXPANSION TO THE WEST KOOTENAY, PAT MORROW PHOTO

years later, KCP has 85 partner organizations from diverse perspectives and backgrounds, including land and water conservation and stewardship groups, Indigenous communities, land trusts, rod and gun clubs and wildlife associations, invasive species societies, local, provincial and federal government agencies, resource industries, and agricultural producers working throughout the East and West Kootenays. KCP partners recognize the value

of working together towards a collaborative approach and vision.

The conservation vision remains the same... *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.*



The number of KCP partners grew nearly 250% in the last 20 years, from 36 in 2002 to 85 in 2022.


















KCP TIMELINE

20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP



Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF) passes referendum and approved by RDEK
FIRST LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND IN CANADIAN HISTORY

- GOVERNANCE
- EVENT
- LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND
- CONSERVATION ACTION FORUMS
- AWARDS
- WEBINARS
- KOOTENAY CONNECT
- STEWARDSHIP TOOLKIT
- TRAINING
- LAND ACQUISITION

| 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <div>OCT</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP hosts first workshop and officially forms as a partnership</div> | <div>FEB</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP coordinates property acquisitions in the East Kootenay. Hoodoos is acquired by The Nature Trust of BC (NTBC), at 3,930 hectares in size – it is NTBC's largest fee simple conservation property ever acquired.</div> | <div>JUN</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP publishes <i>Conserving Working Landscapes</i> prospectus to guide partnership's direction</div> <div></div> <div>Conservation Covenants Information Session INVERMERE</div> | <div>NOV</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP hosts first Fall Gathering FERNIE</div> | <div>FEB</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP First AGM Securement Property Tour CRANBROOK</div> | <div>JUN</div> <div></div> <div>Planning Tools to Balance Growth and Conservation Conference CRANBROOK</div> | <div>FEB</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP conducts polling for Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund</div> | <div>OCT</div> <div></div> <div>Working Landscapes Tour WESTERN MONTANA</div> | <div>NOV</div> <div></div> <div>Picture It: Planning Tools to Protect Our Quality of Life Workshop INVERMERE</div> | <div>NOV</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP develops Strategic Priorities (2008 to 2013)</div> <div></div> <div>Darkwoods is acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and at 63,000 ha is the largest private land acquisition for conservation in Canada</div> | <div>OCT</div> <div></div> <div>How to Create a Local Conservation Fund in Your Region Workshop CRANBROOK</div> | <div>DEC</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP starts supporting a coordinated approach to West Kootenay land acquisitions</div> | <div>OCT</div> <div></div> <div>Conservation Planning in the West Kootenay Scoping Workshop NELSON</div> <div></div> <div>EKCP begins Conservation Leadership Awards</div> <div></div> <div>The Economics of Private Land Conservation Workshop CRANBROOK</div> |



First Kootenay Connect meeting to formalize a partnership approach to landscape connectivity



| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|---|--|
| JAN KCP Winter Webinar Series: Tools in the Toolbox for Private Land Conservation | JAN KCP Winter Webinar Series: Grasslands to Wetlands - Connecting Diversity | JAN KCP Winter Webinar Series: Conservation in the Context of Climate Change - Restoration in Action |
| FEB First Conservation Action Forum co-hosted with the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society SLOCAN LAKE | FEB CVLCF 10-Year Anniversary Celebration INVERMERE | MAR Stewardship Solutions Toolkit launched CRESTON |
| MAY Critter Day Co-hosted with FWCP Spring Tours MEADOW CREEK & COLUMBIA VALLEY First KLLCF Field Tour for KLLCF Directors | MAY Spring Tours BALFOUR & ELK VALLEY Critter Day Co-hosted with FWCP KLLCF Guidance Document identified priorities for conservation in KOOTENAY LAKE | MAY ELK VALLEY Conservation Action Forum co-hosted with the Sparwood Fish and Wildlife Association CVLCF Tour for RDEK Directors COLUMBIA VALLEY Spring tour to Fort Shepherd Conservancy Area TRAIL |
| SEPT KCP UPDATES STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2017-2022 to formalize direction | SEPT KLLCF Guidance Document Open Houses KOKANE CREEK, BOSWELL & ARGENTA | NOV KCP conducts market research polling for expanding local conservation funds |
| OCT 2017 Fall Gathering From Grasslands to Wetlands: Connecting Diversity CRANBROOK | OCT Lower Columbia Conservation Action Forum with support from the Forum Steering Committee 2018 Fall Gathering Conservation in the Context of Climate Change NELSON | NOV KCP conducts market research polling for expanding local conservation funds |
| NOV KCP creates Conservation Neighbourhood approach to stewardship in the Kootenays | NOV KLLCF Field Tour for KLLCF Directors | NOV KCP conducts market research polling for expanding local conservation funds |
| DEC COLUMBIA VALLEY Conservation Action Forum co-hosted with the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners | DEC KCP Winter Webinar Series: Grasslands to Wetlands - Connecting Diversity | DEC Local Government Forum identifies priorities for local government in conservation |

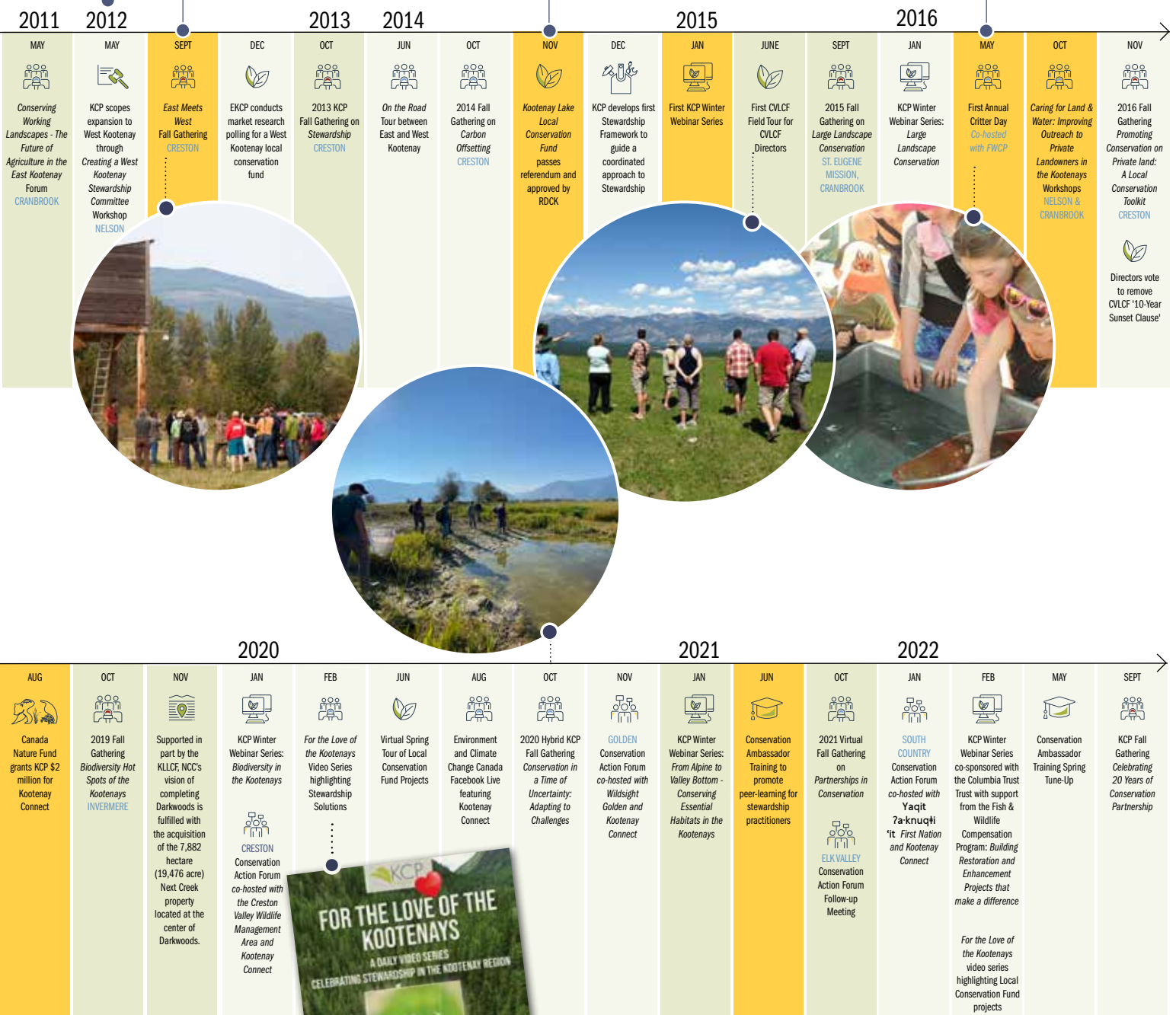


2014 KCP FALL GATHERING DARKWOODS FIELD TOUR, KCP PHOTO

Lot 48 is acquired by NCC and is the first property acquisition supported, in part, by the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund

EKCP celebrates 10 year anniversary and goes Kootenay-wide becoming the Kootenay Conservation Program

Second Local Conservation Fund in Canadian history

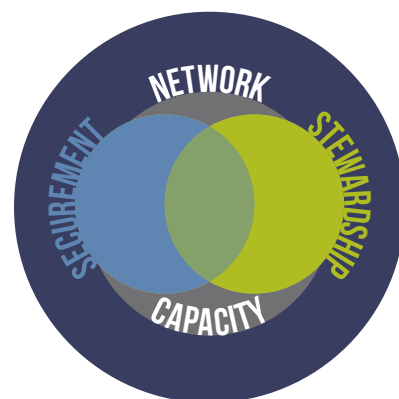




KCP STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The foundation of the KCP partnership is a common approach to land conservation, achieved through coordinated securement, stewardship, capacity building and networking efforts. Following the East Meets West Fall Gathering in 2012 and the transition of EKCP into Kootenay Conservation Program, the partnership confirmed the goals and priorities that define KCP and ensured the partnership was continuing to work towards collective priorities.

- 1) Increase the effectiveness, collaboration and coordination of private land **securement**.
- 2) Increase the effectiveness and coordination of **stewardship** activities taking place on private lands.
- 3) Build and provide technical, financial and internal **capacity** for KCP and partner organizations to undertake securement and stewardship activities.
- 4) Strengthen the **network** of conservation organizations through communications to achieve efficiencies, synergies and ultimately greater effectiveness.



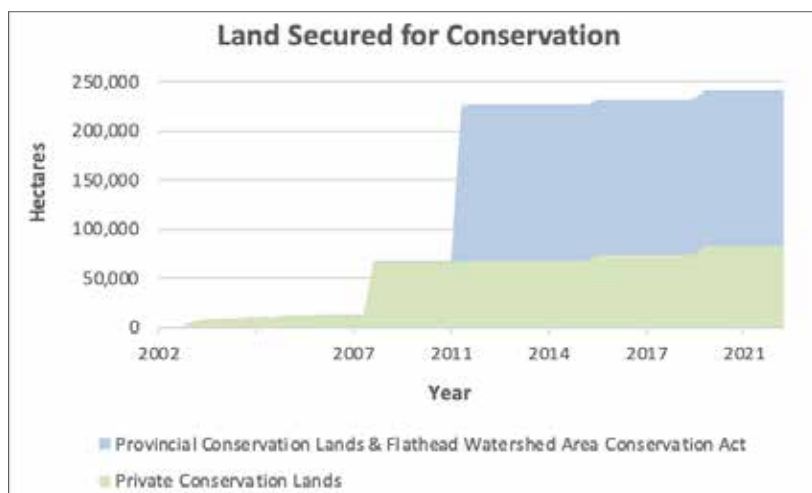


CRESTON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, MARC-ANDRE BEAUCHER PHOTO

GOAL 1 SECUREMENT

INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS, COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION OF PRIVATE LAND SECUREMENT

World-class conservation efforts by local land trust partners have resulted in the acquisition of properties throughout the region that protect fish and wildlife, movement corridors, grasslands, old forests, and riparian areas. These properties have increased landscape-level connectivity and secured valuable habitat for species at risk. Since 2002, KCP has worked with partners to conserve 241,109 hectares of land, including 82,679 hectares of private land, and acquire 57 properties across the Kootenays. This includes working with partners to establish the Flathead Watershed Conservation Area Act in 2011 which prohibits mining in the Flathead Valley (157,883 hectares). KCP provides coordination and collaboration by facilitating a **Securement Committee** that includes members from regionally active land trusts and other key organizations involved in land acquisition for conservation (e.g., provincial government, Canadian Wildlife Service, Fish



THE 2008 AND 2011 SPIKES IN THE FIGURE ABOVE REPRESENT THE ACQUISITION OF DARKWOODS (2008) AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FLATHEAD WATERSHED AREA CONSERVATION ACT (2011).

241,109 hectares of land conserved

57 properties acquired



and Wildlife Compensation Program, Ducks Unlimited Canada). Priorities for land acquisition are based on presence of important habitat and species at risk, contribution to conserving wildlife and climate change corridors, urgency of conservation threats, property size, management and maintenance responsibilities, and available funding.

EXAMPLES OF SPECIES AT RISK⁶ THAT ARE PROTECTED BY THESE LAND ACQUISITIONS INCLUDE:

Mammals

- American badger (E, R)
- Grizzly bear (SC, B)
- Little brown bat (E)
- Mountain woodland caribou (T, R)
- Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (B)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (B)
- Wolverine (SC, B)

Fish

- Bull trout (B)
- Westslope cutthroat trout (SC, B)

Birds

- Bank swallow (T, B)
- Common nighthawk (T)
- Great blue heron (B)
- Lewis's woodpecker (T, B)
- Long-billed curlew (SC, B)
- Williamson's sapsucker (E, R)

Plants

- Hairstem groundsmoke (B)
- Limber pine (B)
- Pale bulrush (R)
- Scarlet gaura (B)

Reptiles

- North American Racer (SC, B)

Amphibians

- Western toad (SC)

Invertebrates

- Vivid dancer (SC, B)



BANK SWALLOW, RACHEL DARVILL PHOTO

EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL HABITAT FEATURES THAT ARE PROTECTED BY THESE LAND ACQUISITIONS INCLUDE:

- Badger burrows
- Climax grasslands
- Diverse wetland types
- Dry open forests
- Feeding areas for herons
- Garter snake hibernacula
- Lewis's woodpecker nests
- Limestone springs
- Mature and distinct riparian forests
- Migratory bird stop-over areas
- Mountain goat mineral licks
- Old growth forests
- Rearing and spawning areas for trout
- Ungulate winter range

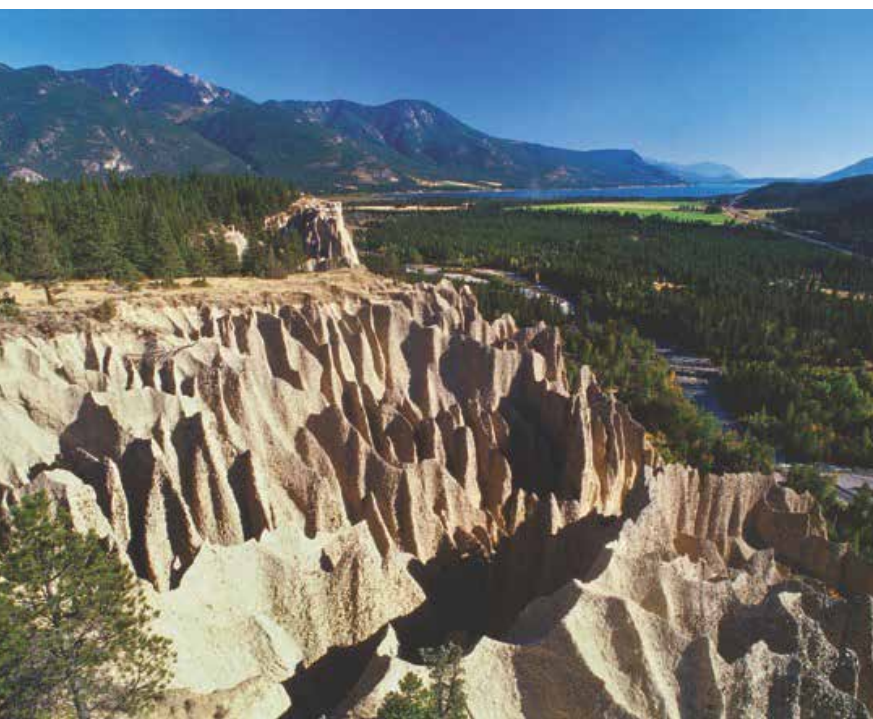
FEATURED PROPERTIES

Property acquisition and covenants are an integral approach to private land conservation. Although the size of individual acquisitions can vary greatly in size, every hectare conserved counts towards protecting the region's fish and wildlife, movement corridors, grasslands, old forests, and riparian areas.

Major funders of land acquisition over the years include the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Columbia Region, Columbia Basin Trust, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. See the next few pages to learn about some of the major milestones for securement in the Kootenays over the last 20 years.

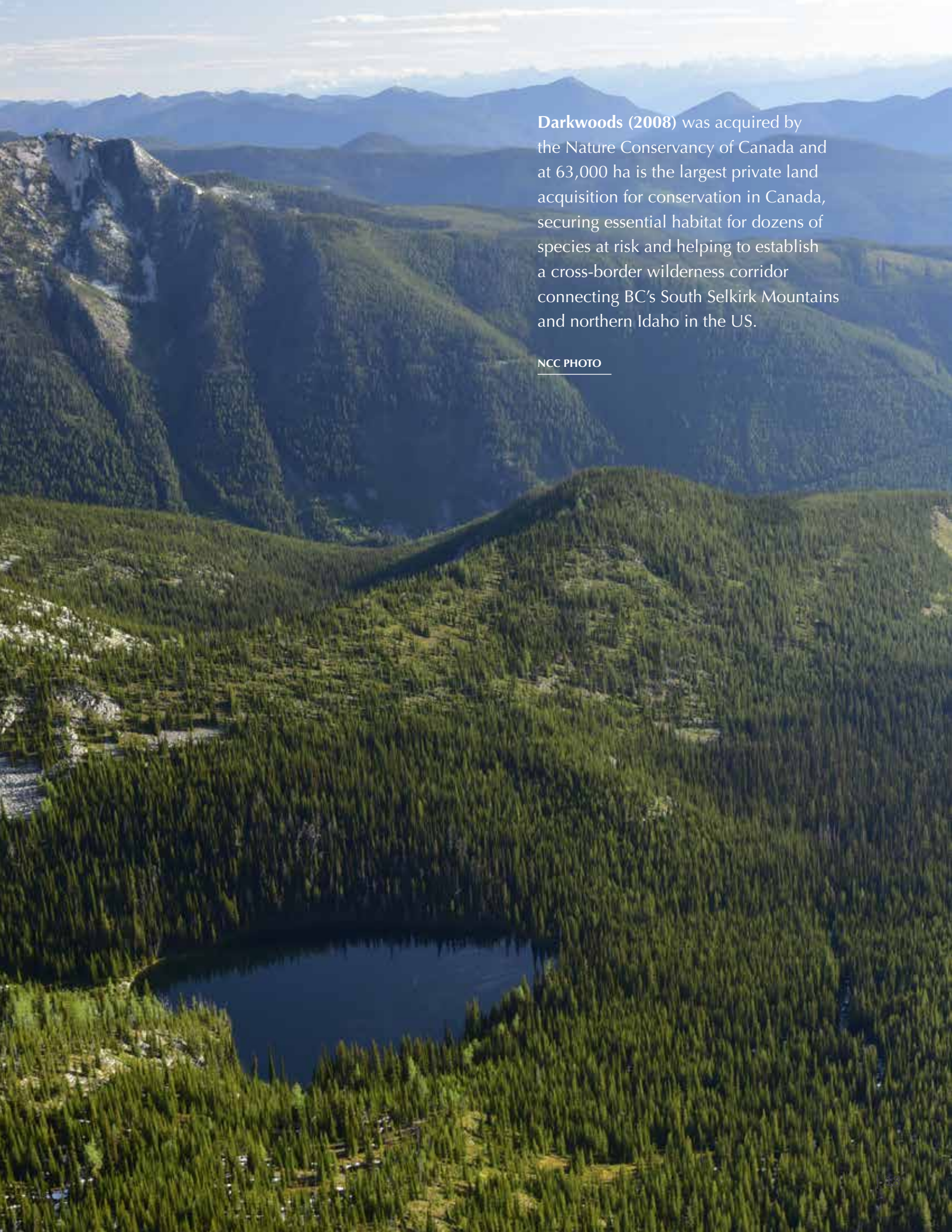


NEXT CREEK
STEVE OGLE/NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA PHOTO



Hoodoos (2003) was acquired by The Nature Trust of BC and at 3,930 ha in size is NTBC's largest fee simple conservation property ever acquired, conserving ecologically significant wetlands, grasslands and ungulate winter range.

NTBC PHOTO



Darkwoods (2008) was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and at 63,000 ha is the largest private land acquisition for conservation in Canada, securing essential habitat for dozens of species at risk and helping to establish a cross-border wilderness corridor connecting BC's South Selkirk Mountains and northern Idaho in the US.

NCC PHOTO

Lot 48 (2012) was acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and at 127 ha in size along the east shore of Columbia Lake functions as a critical north-south and east-west wildlife corridor, is the first property acquisition supported, in part, by the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund.

NCC PHOTO



Luxor Linkage Mountain and Wetland Properties (2016-17) were acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada and at 389 ha connects Kootenay National Park to the ecologically-significant Columbia Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, securing important valley-bottom habitat.

NCC PHOTO



Next Creek (2019): With support from the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund, the Nature Conservancy of Canada acquired the 7,882 ha Next Creek property, located at the centre of Darkwoods and protecting the ecological integrity of a conservation network that is nationally and internationally significant.

NCC PHOTO



Hoodoos – Columbia Wetlands (2022) was acquired by The Nature Trust of BC and at 57 ha contributes to the ecological significance of the Hoodoos as well as contributes to one of Kootenay Connect’s important cross-valley corridors ensuring safe passage for wildlife accessing the relatively undisturbed wetlands, riparian, and grassland habitat that are home to many at-risk and endangered species.

NTBC PHOTO

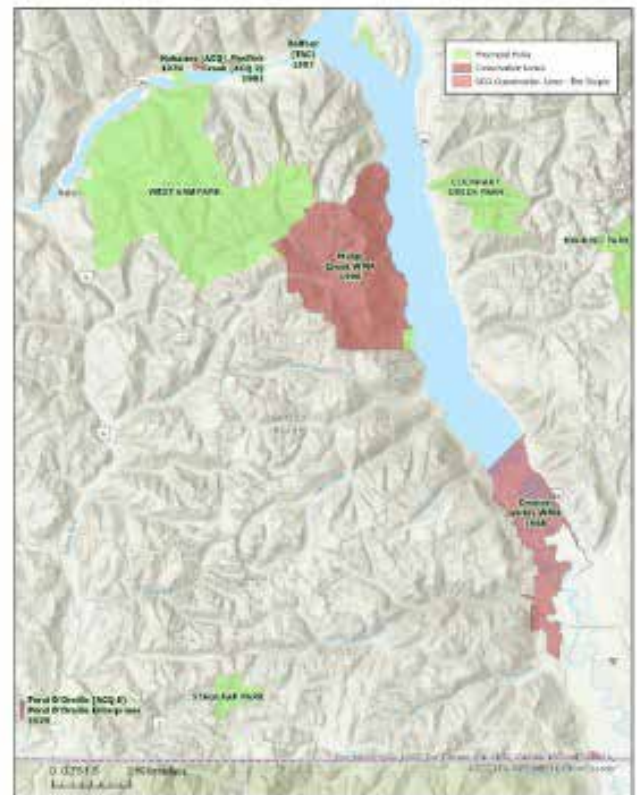


INCREASING LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY

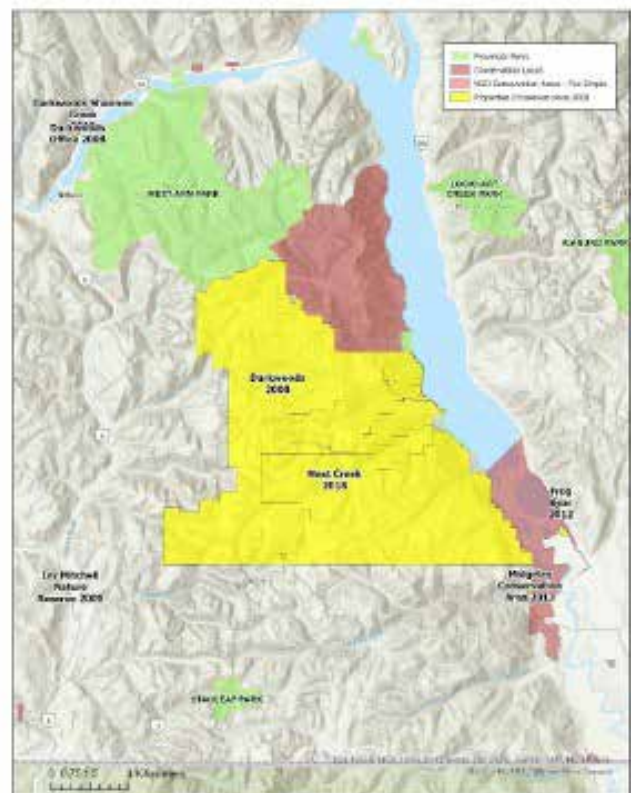
Landscape connectivity is integral in its importance in facilitating movement of wildlife, reducing habitat fragmentation, and providing opportunities for climate adaptation. For decades, land trusts have been actively working to acquire key private lands that help connect landscapes in important wildlife corridors.

Through a coordinated approach facilitated by KCP, land trusts have acquired properties since 2002 that protect important habitats that species depend on while also maintaining connected landscapes in the Kootenays.

Yellow indicates private land acquisition since 2002.

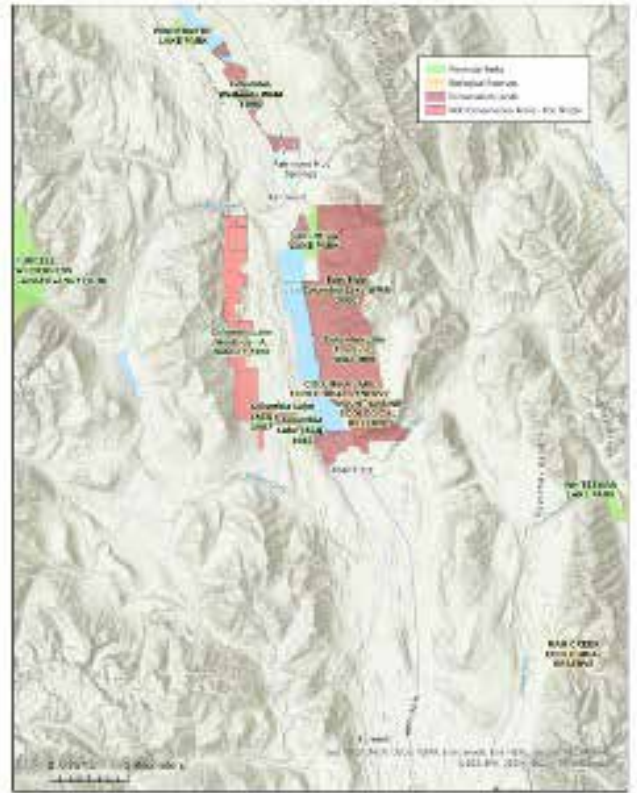
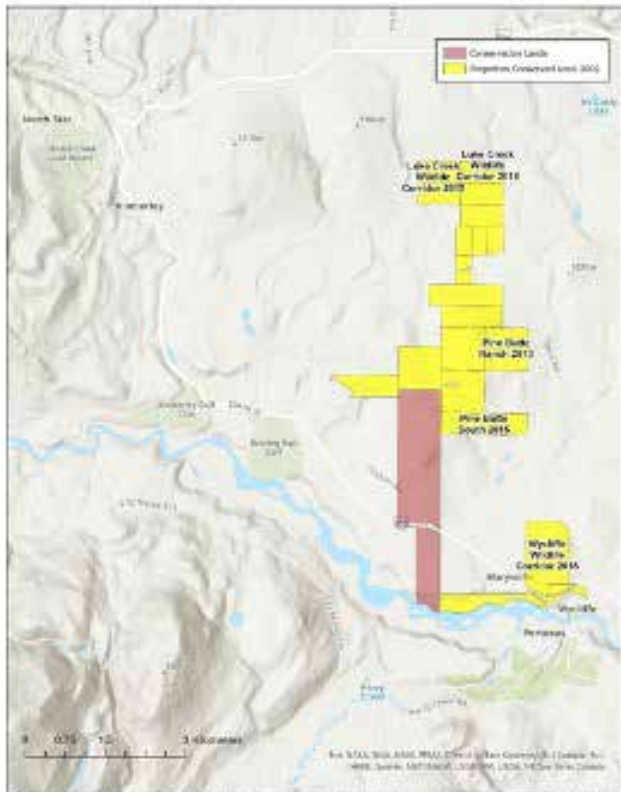


INCREASING LANDSCAPE CONNECTIVITY IN THE CRESTON VALLEY FROM 2002 TO 2022

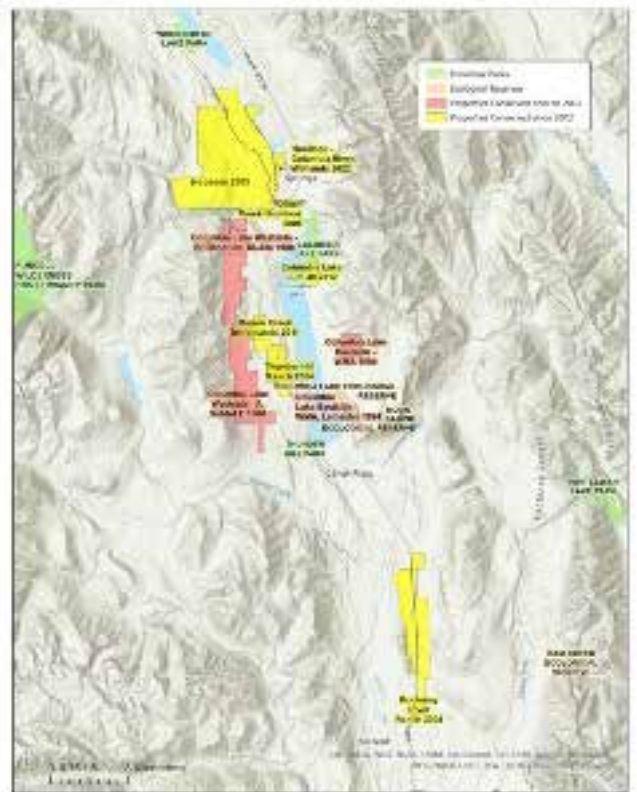




INCREASING LANDSCAPE
CONNECTIVITY IN
WYCLIFFE CORRIDOR
FROM 2002 TO 2022



INCREASING LANDSCAPE
CONNECTIVITY IN
COLUMBIA VALLEY
FROM 2002 TO 2022





GOAL 2 STEWARDSHIP

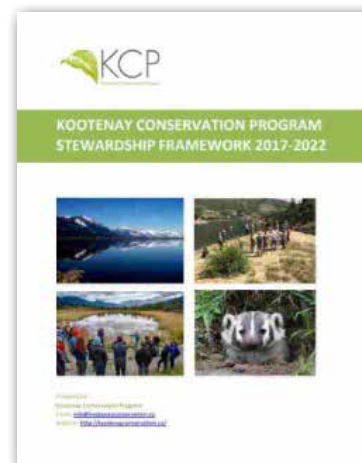
INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND COORDINATION OF STEWARDSHIP ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE ON PRIVATE LANDS

Stewardship: an ethic that embodies the careful and responsible use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices.

The goal of the KCP stewardship initiative is to increase the effectiveness and coordination of stewardship activities taking place on private land.

INCREASE COLLABORATION BETWEEN PARTNERS

KCP increases collaboration between partners through the East Kootenay Stewardship Committee (established in 2003) and the West Kootenay Stewardship Committee (established in 2012). These committees support partners in identifying ways to work together on stewardship activities involving conservation and restoration of species and habitats, enable organizations to stay connected and share updates on their programs and initiatives, seek opportunities to collaborate, and learn about current and leading-edge science. KCP has also hosted numerous field tours to showcase partners' projects, as well as offered hands-on professional training opportunities to enhance stewardship capacity within the partnership.



THE KCP STEWARDSHIP FRAMEWORK PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO KCP AND ITS PARTNERS FOR HOW TO COLLECTIVELY IDENTIFY AND ADVANCE STEWARDSHIP PRIORITIES IN THE REGION.

Field tours to Meadow Creek · Columbia Valley Wetlands · Balfour
Elk Valley · Fort Shepherd Conservation Area · Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor



FACILITATE NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSERVATION PLANNING THROUGH CONSERVATION ACTION FORUMS

KCP's Conservation Neighbourhood approach brings together diverse conservation perspectives as well as leading scientists and other knowledge keepers for a particular landscape to identify shared priorities for conservation.

Fourteen subregions (known as "Conservation Neighbourhoods") were developed by KCP and partner organizations to help guide conservation planning at a meaningful and local scale. These subregions represent unique ecosystems, social communities and approaches to conservation and facilitate collaborative local solutions to addressing the most pressing needs of each neighbourhood. Common themes for conservation priorities across the Conservation Neighbourhoods include:

- Conserve populations of species of concern
- Protect existing high-quality habitat
- Restore degraded habitat
- Enhance landscape connectivity and corridors
- Prevent and control invasive species
- Reduce recreational pressure
- Advance climate change resilience

Within these subregions, **Conservation Action Forums** bring together partners where there is local interest and leadership to learn from the latest science in the region to inform the development of shared priorities for action.

Since 2017, KCP has facilitated Conservation Action Forums with partner organizations in seven Conservation Neighbourhoods: Slocan Lake Watershed, Columbia Valley, Lower Columbia, Elk Valley, Creston Valley, Golden and South Country.



EXAMPLES OF PRIORITY ACTIONS THAT ARE BEING PURSUED BY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- Map critical / important habitat for suites of species at risk (Slocan Lake Watershed)
- Protect, monitor and mitigate decreases in hydrologic inflows into the Columbia River and Wetlands (Columbia Valley)
- Encourage the use and sharing of Best Management Practices at the local level (Lower Columbia)
- Reduce human wildlife conflict – transportation and towns (Elk Valley)
- Enhance landscape connectivity and corridors through a climate change lens (Creston Valley)
- Identify and prioritize for conservation of multi-species wildlife corridors (Golden)
- Restore and improve ecosystem function and adaptive capacity to climate change through the implementation of climate-resilient projects (South Country)



JANUARY 2020 CRESTON CONSERVATION ACTION FORUM, NICOLE TRIGG/KCP PHOTO

Of the 37 Priority Actions identified across the first six Forums, 36 Actions — 97% — were either completed or were actively being pursued by April 2022.





PROMOTE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO LANDOWNER OUTREACH VIA THE STEWARDSHIP SOLUTIONS TOOLKIT

Many KCP partner organizations have a wealth of knowledge, information and resources to steward private land. KCP's landowner outreach initiative, the **Stewardship Solutions Toolkit** is organized by Conservation Neighbourhood and is designed as a one-stop shop for private landowners interested in stewardship options for their property and as a resource for stewardship practitioners, local government planners and other service providers. The diversity of services includes information, tools, incentives, services, learning opportunities, and/or funding for stewardship activities focussing on such topics as wildlife, species at risk, invasive plants, water quantity and quality, forest and grassland ecology, fire interface management, and habitat restoration.

| KCP Kootenay Conservation Program | | | STEWARDSHIP SOLUTIONS KOOTENAY LAKE | |
|---|---|--|--|----------------|
| | FARM RESOURCES ACCESS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO STEWARD YOUR FARM | | KOOTENAY BOUNDARY FARM ADVISORS 1-800-958-7274 coordinator@kbf.ca www.kbf.ca | |
| | FARM PLANS DEVELOP AN ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN FOR NO COST | | ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLAN PROGRAM 1-866-332-3447 • info@efpc.ca www.ardcorp.ca/programs/ environmental-farm-plan/ | |
| | FARM INCENTIVES RECEIVE INCENTIVES TO CONSERVE AND RESTORE RIPARIAN SITES ON YOUR FARM | | FARMLAND ADVANTAGE info@farmlandadvantage.com www.farmlandadvantage.ca | |
| | WILDFIRES REDUCE THE RISK OF WILDFIRE ON YOUR PROPERTY AND SUPPORT HEALTHY LANDSCAPES | | REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY 250-352-3339 firesmart@rdck.bc.ca | |
| | CONSERVATION FUND GET FUNDING FOR YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION PROJECT | | KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM manager@kootenayconservation.ca www.kootenayconservation.ca/kootenay-lake-local-conservation-fund/ | |
| | LAND DONATION DONATE ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT LAND TO A LAND TRUST | | KOOTENAY CONSERVATION PROGRAM On behalf of participating Land Trusts: manager@kootenayconservation.ca www.kootenayconservation.ca/securement-coordination/ | |
| | TAX INCENTIVES RECEIVE TAX BENEFITS BY DONATING LAND TO A QUALIFIED RECIPIENT | | ECOLOGICAL GIFTS PROGRAM 1-800-267-2384 www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecological-gifts-program.html | |
| | INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENT AND CONTROL SPREAD OF INVASIVE PLANTS & AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES | | CENTRAL KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY 1-844-332-1160 info@kiss.ca www.kiss.ca | |
| PHOTO CREDITS: BRUCE BLACKWELL (WILDFIRES), ADRIAN LESLIE (LOCAL CONSERVATION), WOPPC (TERRESTRIAL INVASIVES) | | | | |
| | WILDLIFE | | HABITAT | |
| | MONITORING | | FARMS & RANCHES | |
| | | | | FUNDING |



Since its launch in 2019, the Toolkit has been accessed by 2,695 people, over 3,876 sessions and 10,043 page views.

46 Stewardship Solutions across 14 Conservation Neighbourhoods



FOSTER A LANDSCAPE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION THROUGH KOOTENAY CONNECT

An important objective of KCP's stewardship is to coordinate our partner's activities in order to maintain habitats that provide connectivity for species and ecosystem processes. **Kootenay Connect** is a regional approach to sustain biodiversity across local landscapes by improving habitat connectivity within and between valley bottoms and mountain ranges.

This initiative stems from a 2019 report supported by KCP (*Kootenay Connect: Riparian Wildlife Corridors for Climate Change: A Preliminary Report*) by Proctor and Mahr⁷ that identified a dozen key areas within the Kootenays that are critical for maintaining functional wildlife movement corridors and for conserving vulnerable and at-risk species into the future.

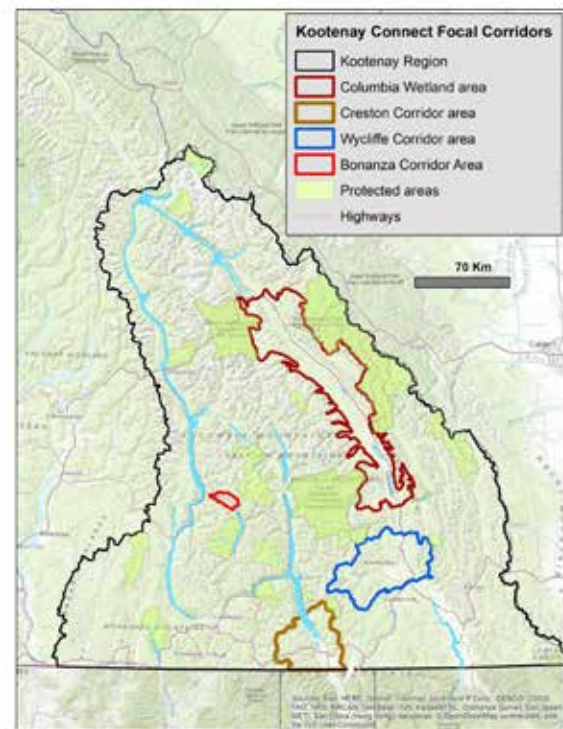
In the fall of 2019, KCP and many of our partners were awarded an Environment and Climate Change Canada - Canada Nature Fund grant for Kootenay Connect that focused on four of the corridors identified by Proctor and Mahr.

This four-year project administered by KCP aims to enhance, restore, and manage important valley bottom habitats to support the recovery of 32 federally-listed species at risk, such as American badger, grizzly bear, little brown myotis, western screech-owl, Lewis's woodpecker, Williamson's sapsucker, bobolink, and northern leopard frog, and 40 federally listed species of special concern, such as, great blue heron, mountain goat, western toad, kokanee and many others.



SUMMIT LAKE WETLAND, RYAN DURAND PHOTO

The Canada Nature Fund grant focuses on four priority places: Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor (north of New Denver), Creston Valley, Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor (north of Cranbrook), and the Columbia Valley Wetlands, totaling 10,000 km². Thirty-two KCP partners and specialists, including stewardship groups, land trusts, science and technical consultants, and recovery teams are actively working together to enhance and restore habitat for species at risk in these four biodiversity hotspots in the Kootenays. Restoration and enhancement efforts target improving and protecting a broad spectrum of habitat types such as native grasslands, rich wetlands, cottonwood riparian areas, and mature cedar-hemlock forests that support species at risk. The Kootenay Connect project focuses on the important linkage between these habitats that is critical for maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems and biodiversity. Subprojects include species at risk inventories, wetland community mapping and classification, and hydrologic monitoring of the Columbia Wetlands; northern leopard frog habitat restoration and habitat connectivity assessment in the Creston Valley; invasive plant management, grassland assessment, and species at risk habitat enhancement in Wycliffe Corridor; and riparian and wetland restoration, beaver study, and comprehensive biodiversity inventory and mapping in the Bonanza Corridor.





ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KOOTENAY CONNECT TO DATE INCLUDE:

Accumulated more than 46 geospatial layers of ecological, biological, species at risk, ecosystem, and human influence characteristics

5.7 km of wildlife friendly fencing installed, maintained, replaced or removed to exclude cattle and motorized vehicles from important wildlife habitat in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor

Invasive plant inventory across 540 ha of the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor and subsequent treatment of 35 ha of invasive plants such as yellow hawkweed, sulphur cinquefoil, common burdock, Canada thistle, common tansy, and spotted knapweed

58 ha of habitat improved by tree thinning and creation of coarse woody debris piles in the Wycliffe Wildlife Corridor



45 cottonwood trees caged to prevent beaver damage in the Columbia Wetlands

85 beavers inhabiting 17 distinct colonies identified in the Columbia Wetlands, with 2 artificial dams installed improving 54 ha of habitat

Over 13 ha of shallow open water enhanced for northern leopard frog breeding habitat in the Creston Wetlands, including 1,643 m of channel cleared of native and non-native vegetation. Mapping of 14,444 ha of wetlands in the Columbia Wetlands, with 10 multi-species wetland-upland corridors identified, and 131 properties considered 'biodiversity conservation opportunities' on public and private land



MARC-ANDRE BEAUCHER PHOTO

Great blue heron breeding site surveys in the four Kootenay Connect focal areas confirmed 7 breeding sites with 161 occupied nests

15 structures installed (7 of artificial Branden Bark, and 8 of a natural bark design) to mimic artificial old growth and increase roosting opportunities for bats and potentially improve 75,000 ha of bat habitat

Comprehensive field inventories led to recording 1,425 species in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor, including over 50 species at risk and 20 first recorded occurrences



TYSON EHLERS PHOTO

Bonanza Conservation Values Assessment identified and mapped high priority areas for conservation

17 ha of wetlands restored at three sites in the Bonanza Biodiversity Corridor



6 North American Bat Monitoring cells established in the four focal areas, identifying 12 species of bats including SARA-listed little brown bat and species of concern including Townsend's big-eared bat, hoary bat, silver-haired bat, eastern red bat, and fringed myotis





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
 BONANZA CORRIDOR - WILDLIFE
 CAMERA PLACEMENT, CRESTON
 VALLEY - DRAINAGE CHANNEL
 CONTOURING, COLUMBIA
 WETLANDS - NEW BASKING LOG
 BEING USED, WYCLIFFE CORRIDOR
 - NEW FENCING



SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO INCORPORATE AND APPLY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES INTO LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING

Since KCP's inception, local governments have been key partners. In 2019, KCP hosted a Local Government Forum to explore planning tools and policies for conservation in the Kootenays. Primary ways that KCP supports local governments are administering Local Conservation Funds, which provide important funding for private land acquisition and stewardship projects, providing science-based priorities to consider in Official Community Plans, and developing and distributing voluntary stewardship information through the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit.



2019 LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM, NICOLE TRIGG/KCP PHOTO

GOAL 3 CAPACITY

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

KCP recognizes that in order to achieve stewardship and securement goals, organizations require capacity – both technical in the form of knowledge and financial in the form of funding. To achieve this, KCP provides a venue for partners to share technical knowledge and skills that allows for the latest science and best practices to be applied on the ground. As well, by working with local governments, KCP has increased the financial capacity of organizations through the Columbia Valley and Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Funds.

BUILDING TECHNICAL (KNOWLEDGE) CAPACITY: TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

WEBINAR SERIES

KCP has been building the technical capacity of partners through an annual webinar series since 2011. KCP has delivered 34 webinars on topics ranging from restoration projects to investing in resilient landscapes to old growth forests. The webinar series has been increasingly popular each year.



34 webinars
from 2011-2022

Participation in the 2022 Winter Webinar Series reached a new all-time high with an average of 118 attendees per webinar, which represents an increase of roughly 450% in attendance since 2017.

1,487 webinar attendees between 2017-2022

CONSERVATION AMBASSADOR TRAINING

KCP planned and delivered our first **Conservation Ambassador Training Program** in the Spring of 2021 to share and build upon ideas and practices presented in the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit.

Through this virtual learning opportunity, KCP delivered training modules that provided interested individuals and organizations with the key information, messages, and source materials they need to effectively communicate with private landowners on how they can be better stewards for fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The three-part training series included the following topics:

- Stewarding for Plant and Insect Biodiversity
- Stewarding for Bird Nesting and Roosting Habitat
- Stewarding for Water and Wet Habitats During Climate Change



Participants included representatives from Indigenous communities, stewardship groups, and provincial and local governments. Twenty-four of the 57 individuals that attended all three sessions either during the original series in 2021, or through the 'Spring Tune-Up' in 2022, were awarded a beautiful Conservation Ambassador Certificate.

After attending the Conservation Ambassador Training, 100% of participants said they will refer the Stewardship Solutions Toolkit as part of their outreach work.



NORTHERN PYGMY OWL, STEVE OGLE PHOTO



FIELD TOURS

Field tours provide an excellent and engaging opportunity to actively showcase the accomplishments of partners, share knowledge and expertise, and learn more about conservation values.

Local Conservation Fund Field Tours

KCP offers field tours of Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund and Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund projects. In 2020, a virtual tour was held during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019 COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND DIRECTORS' TOUR
NICOLE TRIGG/KCP PHOTO



Critter Day

Critter Day, which KCP has co-hosted with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, brings together hundreds of community members and conservation experts to raise awareness about the valuable conservation opportunities in the Trail area.



East Kootenay Spring Tours

KCP conducts a Spring Tour of conservation areas in the East Kootenay to showcase our partners' on-the-ground projects. The Spring Tours is held in tandem with the annual East Kootenay Stewardship Committee Meeting.



West Kootenay Spring Tours

Similarly, KCP also conducts a Spring Tour in the West Kootenay to showcase partner projects. The Spring Tour is held in tandem with the annual West Kootenay Stewardship Committee Meeting.



BUILDING FINANCIAL CAPACITY: LOCAL CONSERVATION FUNDS

In 2005, KCP (then, the EKCP) saw the opportunity to establish conservation funds in Canada similar to those being established in the United States. At that time, it was unclear whether these types of publicly funded services could be established in Canada and, if so, what the available political processes were. The conservation fund idea received support from the Upper Columbia Valley portion of the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK). Residents there voted 'yes' in a referendum in 2008, and property owners in the service area pay a parcel tax of approximately \$20 per parcel as the **Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF)**. CVLCF projects have included water monitoring, land acquisition, stewarding species at risk, compensating farmers for ecosystem services, and habitat restoration.

From 2010 to 2021, the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund approved 101 grants totalling \$2.55 million. This local investment has leveraged nearly nine times that amount in additional grants and in-kind contributions.



Building on the experience of establishing the CVLCF, KCP led the initiative to establish a conservation fund in the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). The RDCK established the **Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund (KLLCF)** after a successful vote in November 2014, which was held in conjunction with the local election in electoral areas A, D, and E. The financing mechanism is a parcel tax of \$15 per parcel per year, which is applied to all parcels (residential, industrial, commercial) in the service area.

As participating communities are located on Kootenay Lake, water issues emerged as an important focus. The conservation fund's terms of reference reflect this, listing aquatic systems and conservation of water, wildlife, and habitat as the fund themes. KLLCF projects have included: promoting pollinators, reducing grizzly bear conflict, toad mortality mitigation, water monitoring, wetland restoration, beaver habitat restoration, bat conservation, and land securement at Cottonwood Lake and Next Creek.



COLUMBIA VALLEY WETLANDS, LARRY HALVERSON PHOTO



(ABOVE) WILDFLOWERS FOR POLLINATORS
KOOTENAY NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, VALERIE HUFF PHOTO



(ABOVE) COTTON WOOD LAKE
COTTONWOOD LAKE PRESERVATION SOCIETY



FARMLAND ADVANTAGE, WINDERMERE DISTRICT FARMERS' INSTITUTE
DAVE ZEHNDER PHOTO

(BELOW) UPPER COLUMBIA SWALLOW HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
WILDSIGHT GOLDEN, RACHEL DARVILL PHOTO



(BELOW) COLUMBIA LAKE ECOSYSTEM MONITORING AND EDUCATION
COLUMBIA LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY





From 2016 to 2021, the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund approved 37 grants totalling nearly \$468,000. This local investment has leveraged over four times that amount in external grants and in-kind support, not including two conservation acquisitions, which if included, raises the leveraged funding to 43 times additional funding.

Since the establishment of the Columbia Valley and Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Funds, two more Local Conservation Funds have been established in BC in the Okanagan region and the concept continues to spread. Local governments are recognizing the opportunity not only to invest in locally important conservation and community sustainability projects, but also leverage additional funding for these priorities in their communities.

In 2022, RDCK Electoral Area H (Slocan Valley) is planning on going to referendum and Electoral Areas C, F and G are interested in the Local Conservation Fund service. If new electoral areas join this service, it will be an exciting achievement and bring further financial capacity to local conservation organizations.





COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND HIGHLIGHTS

144,632

birds counted



11

years of water
monitoring in
Columbia Lake and
Windermere Lake

5,226

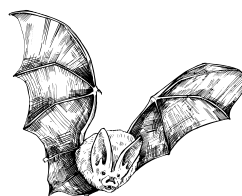
ha of land acquired for
conservation *Lot 48,*
Marion Creek Benchlands,
Windermere West,
Columbia Wetlands
Edgewater

71

hectares of leafy
spurge treated

282

hectares of land
restored in the
Columbia Valley



26

bat roosts counted and
stewarded





KOOTENAY LAKE LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND HIGHLIGHTS

280,000

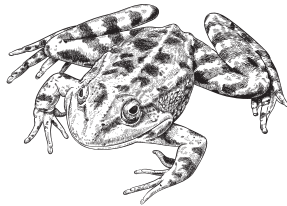
toads redirected or observed
using fencing

100

electric fences installed

10

pollinator meadows
planted



39

bat roosts counted
and stewarded

5

years water monitoring
in the Kootenay Lake
watershed

5

hectares of land restored



7,930

ha of land acquired
for conservation
*Next Creek and
Cottonwood Lake*



DARKWOODS ON KOOTENAY LAKE, MARC-ANDRE BEAUCHER PHOTO

GOAL 4 NETWORK

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

Over the past 20 years, KCP has fostered a strong network of conservation and stewardship organizations to identify synergies and ultimately greater effectiveness by working together. Gatherings, communications, and recognizing leadership contributes to this effective network.



2019 KCP FALL GATHERING, INVERMERE
PAT MORROW PHOTO

FALL GATHERINGS

KCP's annual **Fall Gatherings** serve as one of the primary opportunities for partners across the East and West Kootenay to connect and network. Taking place in locations from Fernie to Nelson and Invermere to Creston, with many field tours in between, KCP uses the event as an opportunity for partners to share knowledge and information with other organizations in the region.



(ABOVE) 2017 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, CRANBROOK
PAT MORROW PHOTO



(ABOVE) 2020 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, CRESTON VALLEY
GREG UTZIG PHOTO



2018 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, NELSON
NICOLE TRIGG PHOTO

(BELOW) 2019 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, INVERMERE
PAT MORROW PHOTO

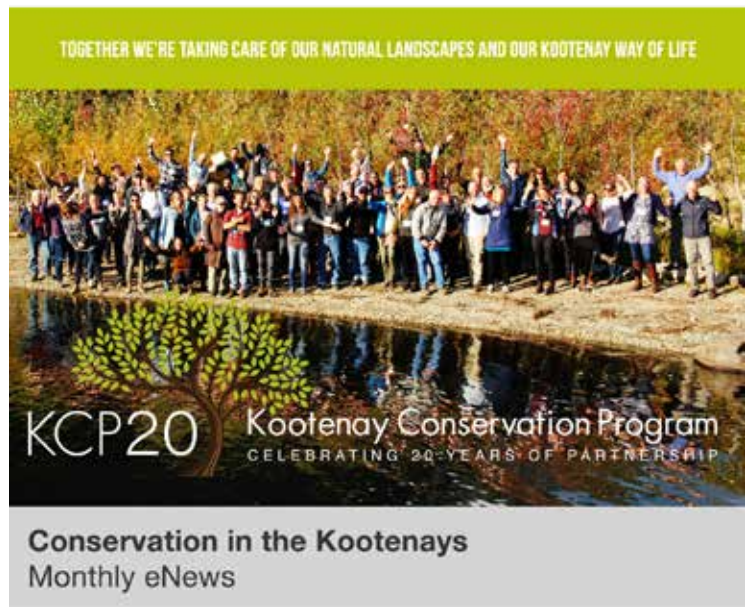
(BELOW) 2020 KCP FALL GATHERING REGIONAL MINI FIELD TOUR, KOOTENAY LAKE
MARCY MAHR/KCP PHOTO



NETWORK NEWS

KCP stays connected with partner organizations by maintaining a central hub of conservation news and resources through our website and monthly **e-News**. Since its launch in 2020, KCP's new and enhanced website has seen over 22,929 users looking for information about KCP initiatives and activities and the KCP network in general. The e-News is distributed to over 1,500 recipients across the region and shares information about the latest

events, opportunities and resources for conservation in the Kootenays. The monthly **Faces & Places** offers the opportunity for KCP Partners to showcase their current projects and innovations — not only in our e-News, but in other media sources.



1,537

Subscribers to the
KCP e-News



88

Faces & Places features



885

Followers on
Facebook



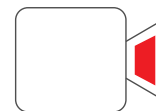
118

Editions of KCP e-News
delivered since its
inception in 2010?



284

Followers on
Instagram



70

Subscribers on
YouTube

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

Beginning in 2012, KCP has awarded an annual **Conservation Leadership Award** as a way to showcase some of the outstanding work being done in conservation in our region. Past award recipients include:

- Susan Bond
- Rob Frew
- Rick Hoar
- Valerie Huff
- John Krebs
- Heather Leshied
- Marlene Machmer
- Irene Manley
- Wayne McCrory
- Dan Murphy
- Rob Neil
- Nancy Newhouse
- Emily Nilsen
- Penny Ohanjanian
- Hillary Page
- Michael Proctor
- Andy Shadrack
- Grant Trower
- Gerry Wilkie
- Jennifer Yeow

KCP20

FOR THE LOVE OF THE KOOTENAYS

A DAILY VIDEO SERIES
CELEBRATING LOCAL CONSERVATION FUNDS
IN THE KOOTENAYS

BEGINS FEBRUARY 14!

Columbia River Wetlands- Edgewater Conservation Property
Photo by Pat Morrow

Learn more about the amazing projects funded by the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund and the Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...
Juliet Craig, KCP Program Director
juliet@kootenayconservation.ca

WHEN & WHERE?
Every weekday morning starting Monday, February 14 receive a link in your inbox to a daily video featuring a different Local Conservation Fund project (excluding BC Family Day on Monday, February 21).

REGISTER ONLINE:
<https://kootenayconservation.ca/for-the-love-of-the-kootenays/>

Together we're taking care of our natural landscapes and our Kootenay way of life.

THANK YOU TO OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND PARTNERS:

East Kootenay LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND

FOR THE LOVE OF THE KOOTENAYS

During February of 2021 and 2022, KCP highlighted the work of partners by assisting with the creation and distribution of short videos that provided a 3-minute snapshot of Stewardship Solutions initiatives as well as the Local Conservation Fund projects in a series called **For the Love of the Kootenays**.



OUR PARTNERS



BC Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
British Columbia Wildlife Federation
Canal Flats Wilderness Club
Castlegar and District Wildlife Association
Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
Clear Sky Centre
College of the Rockies
Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN)
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Lake Stewardship Society
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners
Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area
Ducks Unlimited Canada
East Kootenay Invasive Species Council
East Kootenay Wildlife Association
Eastshore Freshwater Habitat Society
EcoMosaic Consulting
Elk River Alliance
Elk Root Conservation Farm Society
Elkford Rod and Gun Club
Environment and Climate Change Canada -
Canadian Wildlife Service

Farmland Advantage
Ferne Rod and Gun Club
Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program –
Columbia Region
Friends of Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society
Friends of the Lardeau River
Galena Creek Ranch
Golden Rod and Gun Club
Goldeneye Ecological Services
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Grizzly Bear Co-Existence Solutions
Groundswell Network Society
Herbison Consulting
Jakob Dulisse Consulting
Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors Program
Kootenay Centre for Forestry Alternatives
Kootenay Community Bat Project
Kootenay Lake Partnership
Kootenay Livestock Association
Kootenay Native Plant Society
Kootenay Wildlife Heritage Fund
Ktunaxa Nation Council (formerly CCRIFC)
Kutenai Nature Investigations Ltd.



2019 KCP FALL GATHERING FIELD TOUR, PAT MORROW PHOTO

Lake Windermere Ambassadors
Lake Windermere District Rod and Gun Club
Living Lakes Canada
Ministry Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Ministry of Environment (Parks)
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nelson District Rod & Gun Club and Conservation Society
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Pandion Ecological Research Ltd.
Parks Canada
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Regional District of East Kootenay
Rocky Mountain Naturalists
Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society
Round Stone Consulting
Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society
Selkirk College
Shaw Ecological Research
Shuswap Band
Silverwing Ecological Consulting
Slocan Lake Stewardship Society

Slocan River Streamkeepers Society
Slocan Wetlands Assessment and Monitoring Project
Sparwood and District Fish and Wildlife Association
The Nature Trust of BC
Trail Wildlife Association
Trans-Border Grizzly Bear Project
Upstream Environmental Consulting
Veridian Ecological Consulting
WCS's Key Biodiversity Areas Program
West Kootenay Naturalists
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Wildsight - Creston Branch
Wildsight - Elk Valley Branch
Wildsight - Golden Branch
Wildsight - Invermere Branch
Wildsight - Regional
Wildsight - Revelstoke
Windermere District Farmers Institute
Wings Over the Rockies
Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)

THANK YOU TO
OUR FINANCIAL
SUPPORTERS OVER
THE YEARS

Columbia
Basin **trust**



HABITAT
CONSERVATION TRUST
FOUNDATION



NATURE
CONSERVANCY
CANADA



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

NATURE TRUST
BRITISH COLUMBIA



vancouver
foundation



Environment and
Climate Change Canada
Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



THE SCHAAD FOUNDATION

COVER PHOTO BY PAT MORROW